Dr. WILLICH'S LETTER TO THE REV. ABBÉ BARRUEL.

[CONCLUDED.]

"II. It is not of man conducted by reason as it is of brutes led by instinct. The former has each for his end the development of all his faculties, and the in-lay for the end is accomplished in each individual brute. Among men, on the contrary, the end is for the species, and not for the individual, for the life of man is too short to attain the perfection and complete development of his faculties. In the class of man all the individuals pass and perish; the species alone survives, and is alone integral."—BARRUEL 1.

To flow the obvious misrepresentation in this passage, which is composed of fragments from several distinct propositions of the essay, we shall give the reader a faithful translation of Kant's words, from the original, as literally as is consistent with the genius of the English language:—

"Man being the only rational creature on earth, whose natural dispositions or talents, which incite him to the use of his reason, should be completely developed in the species only, not in the individual."—*Kant. Proposition* second, p. 66. Nature has ordained that every gradation of improvements beyond the mechanical arrangement of his animal existence, shall be altogether effected by man himself (i.e. by his moral powers) and that he shall partake of no other happiness or perfection, than what he shall have procured himself, independently, but by his own reason. After having explained that man is a moral agent, neither led by instinct, nor endued with *innate* knowledge; that man (Nature) being, to be not very parsimonious in her original disposition of endowments; that he prepare a fabric of convenience and happiness for others, without enjoying the fruits of our progressive exertions; that, though it appear enigmatical why generations should labour and live in misery, and it seem, to fulfil the intentions of nature, by bringing one thing forward only, laying the foundation for the prosperity of their successors, yet this gradual progress is necessary, if we admit the following proposition:—"A genus of animals ought to be endowed with reason; and, as a class of reasonable beings who all die *individually*, though the *genus* never dies, they should be capable of attain the complete development of their talents *(antagen)*."—KANT. Propos. third, p. 667—669.

It is evident, from the author's own words, that the opinions here is not of the mortality or immortality of the soul; and that the French commentators have entirely misunderstood the drift of the argument.

"III. With respect to man again, the end of the species cannot be accomplished, that is to say, his faculties can only be entirely developed, *in the most perfect state of society*."

"IV. That perfect state of society would be a *general confederacy* of the earth, so united together, that dissensions, jealousies, ambition, or wars, would never be heard of."—BARRUEL.

"*The greatest problem for the human race, and to the solution of which man is enjoined by Nature, relates to the institution of a civil society, which should administer universal justice.* The highest intention of Nature, namely, the development of all her dispositions in mankind, can be accomplished only in that state of society, where the greatest degree of liberty prevails; and which, though it admits a thorough independence *(antagonism)* among its members, still appoints and limits the most exact limits of this liberty, so that it may be coalitent with that of others. As Nature further wills, that man in forming itself realize this end as all the purposes of his destiny, it follows that a society in which *liberty subjected to external laws* is established and combined with the greatest possible degree of an irresistible power, or a perfect and *just civil constitution*, is the greatest task Nature has imposed upon the human race; because the can attain her other purposes with our focus only by the solution and practical realization of that problem."—KANT. propos. Fifth, pages 671 & 672.

"V. Thousands and thousands of years may elapse before this happy period of perpetual peace may come; but, whatever may be the idea conceived of the free exercise of our will, it is nevertheless certain, that the apparent result of that volition, the actions of man are, as well as the other facts of Nature, determined by general laws."—BARRUEL.

Whatever idea we may form of the *liberty of the will* in a metaphysical sense, yet the phenomena of it in actions of man, as well as every other physical event, are determined by general laws of *Nature*. History, which records these phenomena, however deeply their causes may be concealed, shall from an prospect by which we may discover them in a regular series, if we take an enlarged view of the fanciful display of the human wills. Thus, the actions which appear confused and irregular, as regarde in the individual, we shall recognize in the whole species as a continual, though slow, evolution of their original talent or disposition. For instance, marriages, births, and deaths, being much influenced by the free will of man, appear to be subject to no rule, according to which their number could be precisely determined by calculation; and yet the annual lists of them in populous countries evince that, as well as the inconstant weather, they take place according to fixed natural laws. The changes of the atmosphere can be perfectly determined by fingle cases; but, upon the whole, they do not fail to preserve vegetation, the current of rivers, and other institutions of Nature, in an uniform uninterrupted course. Individuals, and even whole nations, are little aware, that while they, each according to his own mind, act frequently in opposition to each other, pursue their peculiar aims, they imperceptibly co-operate with, and are, without their knowledge, guided by the intentions of Nature. And let us even suppose, that mankind, were made acquainted with her purposes, they would be little concerned in that enquiry.

"As man in their exertions do not act merely from instinct, like animals, and yet upon the whole, do not proceed upon a settled plan concerted by rational citizens of the world, it appears to be impossible to form a systematic history of their transactions, such a one for instance, as might be composed of the bee, or the beaver. The observer cannot repress a certain degree of indignation, when he sees the actions and opinions of man represented upon the great theatre of the world; when he finds occasionally apparent wisdom in individuals, but on taking a more general view of things, perceives that the whole is interwoven with folly, puerile vanity, nay even puerile malignity, and a desire of destruction. At length one is at a loss what idea he must form of that species which so conceited of its prerogatives. There is no explanation left to the philosopher; and as he cannot presuppose in man, and his general actions, any rational and *peculiar design*, he endeavours to discover *a purpose of Nature* in the inconsistent course of human affairs; and then, if possible, to form a history according to the fixed natural plan, though the creatures who are the objects of this research, proceed without a determinate rule. Let us try whether we can discover a good historic plan, subservient to, and truth that Nature will endow a man with talents adequate to the completion of the piece. Thus he produced KEPLER, contrary to expectation, related the eccentric course of the planets to fixed laws; and a NEWTON, who explained these laws from a general and natural cause."—Vide KANT's *Idea of Universal History, in a Cosmopolitical View: Introduction*, pages 663—663.—(Extracted from the second Volume of his "Miscellaneous Works." genuine edition; Halle, Renger, 1799.

CONCLUSION.

Without commenting upon the ingenuity of the quotations made by the Abbé Barruel; an incongruity which the intelligent and unprejudiced reader will detect I shall only add the following declaration.

It appears to me, as I have verbally stated to the Abbé, that he has acted on this occasion from confcientious motives rather than from rational conviction; that he defended the great cause of Christianity and Social order with arguments clearly deduced, and proved that the spirit and tendency of the Continental Philosophers eventually militates against eftablished religions and governments, I should have filently borne his reproaches, nay even made with him a common cause. But convinced that he is mistaken, and finding that he has contributed to prejudice the world against my venerable teacher, for whom neither time nor distance can diminish my respect, I have ventured, nay I thought it my duty, to refute afferrions equally virulent and undeserved. For my own part, I shall only add, that I have uniformly, during the preient political and religious contest, observed a respectful silence; and be coming the pupils of Kant, and the inhabitants of a country where we enjoy every degree of *rational liberty*. Nor would I ever undertaken the publication of the Elements of Critical Philosophy, had I not been repeatedly urged by my literary friends to publish the work from their hands. Among these I have the satisfaction to recal to my memory men of the first talents and respectability; men now employed in the instruction of youth at this learned College. And whatever my opinions where at the time when I compoled this work, I solemnly disclaim every *personal* resentment that might be drawn from a book in which the *general* principles of another author are avowedly submitted to the examination of the *learned*—not with a view to diffeminate them in political circles, or to propagate them in popular pamphlets, but to exhibit the truth or fallacy of those principles to competent judges. I trust I have shown enough to conciliate the opinion of those who might have been prejudiced against the philosophic system of a man who for more than half a century, has rank'd high in the eftimation of Europe; whose acquaintance has been courted by all those who have the happiness to know him; and whose whole life is one feries of virtuous actions.

A. F. WILLICH.

DECLARATION OF THE KING OF PRUSSIA.

To the royal and electorial college at Hanover, and to the commanders of the Hanoverian troops.

"In conſequence of the oppreſſion which neutral navigation and commerce has ſuſtained on the part of the Engliſh navy, ever ſince the commencement of this war, the different powers therein intereſted could no longer abſtain, after ſo many ineffectual remonſtrances, from proceeding their violated rights with a greater degree of energy.

"The reſult was the convention formed on the 16th of December, 1800, at St. Petersburgh, between Ruſſia, Denmark and Sweden, the juſt and moderate principles of which have been adopted by the Engliſh court of London itſelf; and his majeſty the King of Pruſſia, who had likewiſe felt the violence injurious to his ſtates and flags, did not heſitate to accede to that treaty.

"The contracting courts were on the point of communicating to the belligerents the convention, when they had agreed to, and of forming arrangements with them, when England by an unexpected proceeding diſcovered this amicable deſign, by ſaying an embargo on all the veſſels of the naval powers of the North in her ports, and thus declaring herſelf their enemy.

"It might have been expected that his majeſty the King of Pruſſia would not regard this conduct with ſatisfaction or indifference. Accordingly, he ſoon after tranſmitted to the court of London the declaration already known of the 12th of laſt month, formally and publicly avowing his acceſſion to the convention of St. Petersburgh, and judicating at the ſame time the means by which the differences that had taken place might be accommodated, and a total rupture avoided.

"But, inſtead of adopting the propoſed expedient, England paſſed over in ſilence the ſubject mentioned to lord Carylſore, at Berlin. She continued to treat the flags of the North in a hoſtile manner; and in a note tranſmitted by the ſecretary of ſtate, lord Hawkeſbury, to the Sweediſh envoy, baron Ehrenſward, dated the 7th of March, at London, ſhe has once more manifeſted thoſe falſe principles which have been ſo often refuted.

"Under thoſe circumſtances, the embargo on Sweediſh veſſels "can be conſidered no other view than as an act of juſt and neceſſary precaution, which will not be revoked ſo long as the court of Stockholm continues to form a part of a confederacy, which has for its object, to impoſe by force on his majeſty a new ſyſtem of maritime law, inſulting with the dignity and independence of his Crown, and the rights and intereſts of his people.

"A ſimilar declaration was ſoon after made by the court of Denmark; adding, that ſhe muſt abandon the Coalition of the north and enter into a ſeparate negociation with England. After receiving a negative anſwer, the Engliſh Chargé d'Affairs, Drummond, and the Plenipotentiary Extraordinary, Vanſittart, left Copenhagen on the ſame day; and in the mean time, the Engliſh fleet, under the orders of Admiral Sir Hyde Parker, deſtined for the Baltic Sea, had actually arrived on the Coaſts of Zealand.

"It appears from all theſe events, that the Court of London has no inclination to deſiſt from her inadmiſſible demands, and accept the propoſed means of amicable conciliation. His majeſty the King of Pruſſia therefore feels himſelf compelled, in conformity to the obligations he has contracted, to take the moſt efficacious meaſures in ſupport of the Convention, at the ſame time that he will ſtill purſue proceedings againſt it; for this purpoſe he will not only ſhut the mouths, of the Elbe, the Weſer, and the Ems, but likewiſe take poſſeſſion of the States belonging to his majeſty the King of England, as elector of Brunſwick Lunenburgh, ſituated in Germany.

"Conſiſtently the King of Pruſſia accordingly demands and expects from the Electoral College of Privy Counſellors at Hanover, and from the Board of Generals, that they will ſubmit to this diſpoſition without delay or reply; and deſire they will voluntarily obey the orders which ſhall be given relative to the occupation of the Electorate by the Pruſſian troops, and likewiſe with reſpect to the Electoral countries. His majeſty principally demands that the Hanoverian corps which has hitherto occupied part of the northern line of Weſtphalia, ſhall be diſmiſſed and diſbanded, with proportional part of the other troops. His majeſty requires that the generals and other officers ſhall engage in writing not to fight againſt his majeſty the King of Pruſſia, but on the contrary, to follow ſtrictly his orders until the preſent affairs be brought to a conclution. The other troops, the greater portion, ſhall be cantoned, part on the right bank of the Seine, and part on the left bank of the Aller, and behind the Lube, as far as the Elbe. The troop ſhall remain diſtributed among the Towns of Hanover, Gifhorn, Velgen, Lunnenburgh, and the ſmaller towns and villages of the diſtrict. The other places, including the Fortreſs of Hamelin, ſhall be delivered to the Pruſſian troops, under the orders of Lieut. General Klein.

"His majeſty declares, at the ſame time, that the Pruſſian troops ſhall be ſupplied at the expence of the Electoral Territory, commencing from the end of the month of April. His majeſty has ordered his Miniſter, Count Haugwitz-berg, to notify the preſent declaration to the Electoral College of Privy Counſellors and Commanders of troops. In theſe circumſtances, the Electoral College and his majeſty the King of England will ceaſe, and authorities are in conſequence reſponſible to his majeſty the King of Pruſſia, for their adminiſtration and the revenues. In caſe, as it is to be hoped, of a voluntary ſubmiſſion, his majeſty is diſpoſed and ready to promiſe, in his turn, as well to the Nobility as to the Burgeſſes and to all the inhabitants of the Electorate, the complete enjoyment of tranquility, and the ſecurity of their property.

"But on the contrary, ſhould the government and the general officers attempt to impede the execution of the meaſures taken and oppoſe the entrance of the Pruſſian troops, his majeſty would be obliged, though againſt inclination, to revoke his promiſes, and to treat the electoral ſtates in a hoſtile manner. The civil and military officers are therefore reſponſible for the fatal conſequences which may in this caſe reſult from their conduct. For this reaſon his majeſty adviſes them to ſubmit to a ſummons, and to prevent the rigorous meaſures which will inevitably be adopted in caſe of a refuſal.

"By order of his majeſty.

(Signed) "HAUGWITZ.

"*Berlin, March* 20, 1801."

In Chancery, May 13, 1801.

BENJAMIN H. WADE, an inhabitant debtor of Prince George County, makes application as a trader, by petition to the Chancellor in writing, praying the benefit of "An act for the relief of ſundry inſolvent debtors." There is annexed to this petition a ſchedule of his property and debts, which appears to be true, as far as is required. And the chancellor being ſatisfied by competent teſtimony, that the ſaid Benjamin H. Wade, is, and at the time of paſſing the ſaid act was, a citizen of the United States and of this ſtate.

It is thereupon adjudged and ordered that he appear before the chancellor in the chancery office, on the fifteenth day of December next, for the purpoſe of taking the oath by the ſaid act required, in preſence of his creditors, and that he give notice to his creditors to meet on the fifteenth day of December, for the purpoſe of recommending a trueſtee for their benefit, and to lodge with the chancellor within ſix months from the time of the laſt publication (if they ſhall think fit) their diſtrees to his being admitted to the benefit of the ſaid act.

Teſt.

SAMUEL H. HOWARD, Reg. ct. ch.

May 22. 3tw