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The Art of Scratching the Head.

[*From a Paris Paper.*]

The faculty of thinking, is almoſt inſeparably connected with ſcratching the head. It was for this reaſon that Champfort ſaid—"I have no great opinion of people with well-dreſſed and powdered hair, becauſe they cannot venture to rub their hands round their heads." The thoughts which flow to the brain produce a frequent titillation in the neighbouring region; and therefore the man of reflection muſt ſcratch himſelf often. The blockhead who wiſhes to paſs for a man of wit ſcratches himſelf ſtill more; and the woman who has ſomething to do more important than that of thinking, ſcratches very ſeldom. The manner of ſatisfying ſo univerſal a want ought to have been an object worthy of attention and emulation among men. But I ſee with regret that I muſt go back to antiquity, in order to find out the traces of this moſt ſimple and convenient practice. In the free cities, which contained as many Rivals as Citizens, an attentive obſervation of each other was the great art of life, and the ſcience of phyſiognomy formed an entire part of the ſtudy of public juriſprudence. Barbarians judged of a hero exactly as they found him; but ſubtle republicans examined him more cloſely, and wiſhed to know why they admired him. I have read Tacitus, Machiavel, Comte d'Avaux, and Cardinal de Retz, and I have not found in them any thing that can be compared to the policy of Alcibiades, when he cauſed the tail of his dog to be cut off, in order to confound the prating idlers of Athens. It is to be preſumed that he was the perſon who invented the mode of ſcratching the head with the point of the finger. The elegant exerciſe was in uniſon with the liſping which diſtinguiſhed that great and accompliſhed man.

The practice paſſed from Athens to Rome, where it made ſuch progreſs, that it became proverbial to deſcribe men of delicate reſearch in the following words—*qui digito scalpunt uno caput.* I aſk pardon of my young fellow-citizens for making uſe of expreſſions unknown to them; but Juvenal, from whom I have taken the paſſage, was ſuch a pedant, that he never knew how to write a word of French.

Licinius Cilvus has left us an epigram, in which he aſked a young woman who was ſcratching with the point of her finger, if ſhe was not looking for a huſband? But this was only idle talk on the part of a poet jealous of thoſe who were good ſcratchers; becauſe he himſelf was bald, as his name imports.

If there be any fact authenticated in hiſtory it is this, that Pompey, who was oftener called the *handsome* than the great, never uſed more than one finger in ſcratching his head. For this he has been done juſtice to by the tribune of Claudius, by Seneca the elder, Ammianus Marcellinus, and the emperor Julian.—Julius Cæſar, another Roman ſtill more illuſtrious, ſignaliſed himſelf in a ſimilar manner, as we learn from Cicero and Plutarch. It is really worthy of remark, that the empire of the world was then conteſted for by two men who were the beſt ſcratchers of their age; and, for the honor of the Gods, I would willingly believe that at Pharſalia they decided in favor of him who had brought the art to the higheſt degree of perfection.

There can be no doubt but that for the laſt ten years we have inherited this faſhion from the Greeks and Romans, and all our young heads, rounded after the manner of the antients, are ſo many proofs of the fact. Is it not, therefore grievous to behold thoſe pretty black heads ſcratched with ſuch barbarous ruſticity? I am ready to faint away when, in the midſt of a ſaloon, or in the moſt elegant company, an Alcibiades or an Antinous opens his hands like two great combs, places them behind his ears, and in that form drives them from the bottom to the top of his head, leaving ten furrows in his hair to bear teſtimony to their paſſage.

What a horrible diſcordance! Is it fit, my countrymen, that while the Muſes are inſtructing milliners and tailors, you ſhould mix with their fineſt performances all the rudeneſs of the peaſants of the Danube? But your error proceeds only from ignorance; and, thanks to Heaven, it will ſoon be removed. Young perſons, in an antique faſhion like you, ſhould not ſcratch except with the end of the finger, without incurring the imputation of barbariſm; and, in obeying this precept, to which Cæſar and Pompey ſubmitted, you will, in time, give a proof of atticiſm and erudition.

I expect that you will perfect yourſelves in this exerciſe. The diſplay of the arm, the whiteneſs of the hand, the luſtre of a ring, are elements worthy of your combinations. Why, then, ſhould not the finger ſporting on your hands have ſufficient genius and expreſſion to ſhew us, by the variety of its movements, whether you are throwing out a declaration of love, or are receiving information concerning the *Tiers Consolides.*

COLUMBIA, (S. C.)

MESSAGE

From his excellency, John Drayton, to the Legiſlature of this State.

To the Hon. the Speaker, and Members of the House of Representatives.

Gentlemen,

I ſalute your preſent aſſemblage, with that pleaſure which the happineſs and proſperity of the ſtate neceſſarily inſpires. From the firſt dawn of our independence to the preſent moment, the hand of providence has conſpicuouſly directed the concerns of our united empire, and has favoured us with thoſe bleſſings of peace, and of public confidence, which, from time to time, have directed the great operations of the union. Partaking of this united happineſs, the ſtate which you repreſent, demands further exertions from you for the general good; and guided by harmony and wiſdom, I hope your preſent ſeſſion will be productive of ſuch wholeſome laws, as experience and particular circumſtances may require.

Among matters of legiſlative concern, which will meet your conſideration, ſome alteration of the law reſpecting repreſentatives to the Congreſs of theſe United States, will be neceſſary—As by the cenſus lately taken, the population of this ſtate has now compleated three hundred and forty-five thouſand, five hundred and ninety-one perſons. Conſequently by the preſent ratio, under the laws of the United States, this ſtate will be entitled to two additional repreſentatives in Congreſs, beſides, leaving an overplus of many thouſand perſons. It cannot yet be aſcertained, whether congreſs will paſs a new law at their approaching ſeſſion, reſpecting the ratio of repreſentation; perhaps the population of theſe United States may be ſuch as to require it. Whatever law therefore you may paſs on this ſubject, providing for the election of two additional repreſentatives to congreſs at the next general election, cannot be enacted with ſuch certainty as could be wiſhed. All that can be done, is to do it with as much preciſion as your preſent ſituation will permit; and to guard againſt the neceſſity of perhaps calling an extraordinary ſeſſion in the enſuing year, for the purpoſe of completing an election law in this caſe, it might be adviſable that during your preſent ſeſſion, you paſs a law to meet the emergency in the moſt eligible manner; and ſhould it be found, on conſideration, that you cannot paſs a complete law on this ſubject, until it be known what meaſures will be taken by the Congreſs of theſe United States, reſpecting the ſame, it might be expedient to veſt certain powers in the executive, to direct elections of repreſentatives to congreſs through this ſtate at the next general election, agreeably to ſuch ratio as ſhall be directed by the laws of theſe United States, and by ſuch regulations as you may deem proper to require. I cannot diſmiſs this ſubject, without inviting your adoration to that gracious providence, with whoſe bleſſing this ſtate hath thus progreſſed by ſuch incalculable degrees, and which, from a wilderneſs, hath ſince the year 1670, reached ſuch an increaſe of population. In like manner our ſiſter ſtates have more or leſs advanced, preſenting to aſtoniſhed Europe, an empire riſing in the weſt; ſtrong in her own reſources; poſſeſſed of arts to which others have arrived by ſlow degrees; and advancing her claim for reſpectability, among thoſe of antient and powerful nations.

Your attention will alſo be, no doubt, directed to the continuance of the comptroller's office, as a department which has already benefited the finances of this ſtate in a very advantageous degree.—By the proceedings which have thence been directed, debts of large amount, which were nearly deſperate, have been ſaved; and the treaſurers and tax-collectors throughout this ſtate, have directed their attention with a vigilance honorable to themſelves, and conducive to the public intereſt. The funded debt of this ſtate has conſequently been greatly reduced. And a ſmall portion of the money now laying in our treaſury, will provide for the amount of outſtanding regiſtered claims; leaving a large ſurplus for any appropriations which the public neceſſities may require. This will come more particularly before you with the comptroller's report, which I hope a few days will give me an opportunity of tranſmitting.

The militia laws alſo of this ſtate, are found ineffectual in ſome important caſes, and a ſuitable opportunity will be taken, of ſubmitting particulars to your conſideration. At preſent I will only obſerve, that republican governments are averſe to large ſtanding armies; but their liberties without them, can only be protected by having a well organized militia, duly controuled by laws; well ſupplied and inſtructed in the uſe of arms; and poſſeſſing thoſe principles of ſubordination and reſpect, which alone can render citizens ſoldiers, or enable them to be defenders of their country's rights. To this ſubject I invite your early attention, as a matter of momentous concern, not only to this ſtate, but as reſpecting our federal union.

Since your laſt ſeſſion, the honorable Charles Pinckney, who was one of the ſenators in Congreſs from hence, has been appointed by the Preſident of theſe United States, miniſter plenipotentiary to his Catholic Majeſty, the king of Spain, in conſequence of which, he has entered on his embaſſy; of this, you will be informed more particularly, by peruſing a copy of his official letter to me, notifying the ſame, and herewith tranſmitted. His appointment of ſenator hath therefore been vacated: and had the ſenate of theſe United States adjourned at its laſt ſeſſion, to a period antecedent to your preſent meeting, I ſhould certainly have conſidered it my duty to have appointed and commiſſioned a citizen of this ſtate to that honorable truſt; but, as the ſenate was not called on any emergency, anterior to the preſent time, and will not convene until the firſt Monday in December next; I deemed it expedient, that the appointment, which would neceſſarily have required your confirmation, ſhould originate with you; as well, becauſe it might, in ſuch caſe, better meet the public approbation; as, becauſe there would be a ſufficient time for the perſon elect to repair to the ſeat of the federal government, and there enter on the duties of his office. That time being ſhort, I recommend that you proceed to an election for that office, with all appropriate diſpatch, conſiſtently with the importance of ſuch appointment.

Since your laſt ſeſſion, I have proceeded through various parts of this ſtate, for the purpoſe of reviewing her militia; and have had frequent opportunities of remarking the increaſing comforts of our fellow-citizens, and the advantages derived to them by our preſent judiciary eſtabliſhment. The new court houſes and gaols, throughout the ſtate, are drawing faſt to completion; and are conſtructed in a manner which beſpeaks much care in the conduct of the commiſſioners reſpecting them. Through accident, and otherwiſe, the appropriations you have made reſpecting theſe public buildings, will, in ſome caſes, be inadequate; and when ſuch caſes ſhall be regularly brought before you, I hope you will make ſuch proviſion therefor as may be found proper and neceſſary.

By the ample balance, which will be found at preſent in the treaſury of this ſtate, the means are within your power, of much relieving local inconveniences throughout the ſame; particularly as reſpects the navigation of rivers which flow through ſome of the richeſt, and moſt populous portions of your country. In the upper parts of this ſtate, the produce of induſtry can only be tranſported to a market by land carriage; much to the inconvenience of the people; and much controuling and diſcouraging their operations in huſbandry. Hence, they have a claim on your early attention to open the navigation of the rivers and water courſes, which nature has ſo bounteouſly diſtributed round; among which, thoſe of the upper parts of Savannah, Saluda, Broad and Cataw rivers, are of moſt immediate concern. And as the waters of Saluda and Broad rivers form a junction in the vicinity of Columbia, and are there obſtructed by rocks and falls of difficult acceſs; I have directed lieut. col. Senf to take proper levels and ſurveys of the ſame, and to make a report thereof to me, that it may be laid before you, for conſideration.

I cannot forbear mentioning to you, on this occaſion, that the companies which have been heretofore incorporated by law, for opening the navigation of our rivers, have, in no caſe, except the Santee Canal, carried the intentions of the legiſlature into effect; neither does it appear, that they are preparing to proceed in the ſame—conſequently, your good intentions, which originated the law, are completely fruſtrated; and the people are withholden from a right of navigation, which nature, reaſon and government, require they ſhould poſſeſs and enjoy. In not opening the navigation agreeably to the different incorporations which have been given, the parties thereto have broken the implied contract between this ſtate and themſelves; and can, with propriety, no longer be deemed entitled to the ſame. I therefore recommend, that you take all lawful and proper meaſures to reſume the authority over the navigation of the rivers above alluded to; as, until the ſame be accompliſhed, the citizens of this ſtate have but ſmall hopes of ſucceſs; and they expect much from the meaſures of government, as the means are in its own hands, of applying ſuch monies from the treaſury, as may be neceſſary to meet whatever expenſes may be incidental thereto.

Proportionably advantageous alſo, to the citizens of this ſtate, will be, any attention which you can beſtow, to the education of her youth. At the commencement of your laſt ſeſſion, I took pleaſure in ſubmitting this to your conſideration: and I now repeat the ſame to you, as a matter claiming your ſerious and early attention. Were a perſon to look over the laws of this ſtate, he would find, that five colleges are now incorporated therein: And, did his enquiries proceed no further, he would naturally imagine, we had already arrived at an enviable excellence in literature. He would perceive, a college inſtitued at Charleſton, one at Cambridge, one at Winnſborough, one at Beaufort, and one by the name of Alexandria college, in the upper parts of the ſtate; all of which, are empowered to confer degrees. But, were he to direct his enquiries further, concerning them, he would find, that Cambridge and Winnſborough colleges were ſoon diſcontinued through a want of funds; and although the laſt mentioned one be lately revived, through the exertions of the Mount Sion Society, it is ſtill nothing but an elementary ſchool; and one, which can never riſe to eminence, as a college, from its preſent ſupport. Beaufort and Alexandria colleges, are as yet, ſcarcely known, but in the law which incorporated them; and Charleſton college is at preſent not entitled to an higher appellation than that of a reputable academy or grammar ſchool. Theſe are melancholy recitals, but they are nevertheleſs true; and as long as the public bounty and private donations be weakened and diſtributed among ſo many colleges, ſo long, I fear, will the citizens of this ſtate be neceſſitated to ſend their ſons abroad for a collegiate education, which true policy directs they ought to receive at home. Could the attention of the legiſlature be directed to this important object, and a ſtate-college be raiſed and foſtered by the ſtate, under proper directors and truſtees, including ex-officio, the executive and judiciary of this ſtate, and any other ſuitable public officers, there could be no doubt of its riſing into eminence; becauſe, being ſupported at firſt by the public fund, the means would not be wanting of inviting and providing for learned and reſpectable profeſſors in the various branches of ſcience. Well choſen libraries would be procured, and philoſophical apparatus lead the purſuits of our youth from theory to practice, thro' all the energies of created nature. The friendſhips of our young men would then be promoted and ſtrengthened throughout the ſtate; and our political union be much advanced thereby; this cannot be expected from ſeparate eſtabliſhments, becauſe the funds for ſupporting them are inſufficient, and their ends are of partial tendency.

With theſe ſentiments, ſpringing from an ardent deſire of promoting the collected good of our mutual country, I ſhall conclude my preſent communication; not, however, without recommending you to the guidance and protection of that wiſe providence, in whoſe hands reſt the fate of nations; nor without giving aſſurances of prompt diſpatch, and a faithful co-operation with you in all matters, which the public happineſs and welfare may require.

With great reſpect and conſideration towards you, I have the honor to ſubſcribe,

JOHN DRAYTON.

South-Carolina, Nov. 23, 1801.

COMMUNICATION

Of his Excellency David Emanuel, *to both Houses of the Legislature of Georgia.*

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives,

The laſt legiſlature, with a full confidence in his firmneſs, integrity and abilities, augmented their truſt, to our late Governor and fellow-citizen, James Jackſon, and elected him a Senator to the Congreſs of the United States.—And on the 3d of March paſt, he declared his acceptance of the ſenatorſhip, and reſigned the government of the ſtate.

The exerciſe of the Executive duties under the fourth ſection of the ſecond article of the conſtitution immediately devolved on me, and arduous as the taſk appeared, yet truſting in the honeſty of my intentions for my guide, and relying on the juſtice and virtuous republicaniſm of my fellow-citizens, I entered on the exerciſe of thoſe duties, and by proclamation, marked No. 1, notified the ſame.

The political year has not met with a jar to unharmonize its wonted ſyſtem, and I congratulate you that our fellow-citizens on the frontier have been able, peaceably to attend to their crops, without a ſingle interruption by the Indians; no account of Indian depredations has reached the department, and from total ſilence of the agent in the nation it would appear he was thoroughly impreſſed with their pacific diſpoſition.

The aſſiduity and attention of Horatio Marbury and Wm. H. Crawford, Eſq'rs. in compiling the digeſt of the laws of this ſtate, met the approbation of Gov. Jackſon, and under, and in conformity with the act entitled "an act to carry into effect the eighth ſection of the third article of the conſtitution," paſſed the ſixth day of December, 1799, received his approval. Their work muſt therefore be conſidered the legally compiled digeſt of the laws of the ſtate of Georgia.

I have drawn warrants on the contingent fund for the balance of the ſum contemplated by the laſt legiſlature to be allowed them while carrying on their labour—and recommend an appropriation as a compenſation in full for their ſervices.

The Senatus Academicus of the Univerſity of this ſtate, convened at the State-Houſe, on the fifteenth day of June laſt, and proceeded to the important duties of that inſtitution. Profeſſor Meigs, formerly of Yale college, was unanimouſly elected Preſident of the Univerſity, a gentleman, whoſe talents are declared to be every way equal to the appointment, and which with his unblemiſhed private character, muſt operate to induce parents to place their children under his tuition, rather than ſend them to other ſtates, at a heavy expence, which is altogether loſt to Georgia, excluſive of the bad effect of prejudices, they are too apt to imbibe in favour of the places at which they are educated. The bounty determined on by that board in obedience to the act, entitled "an act to repeal an ordinance, paſſed at Auguſta, the 26th of January, 1786, ſo far as reſpects the fixing the ſeat of the univerſity of this ſtate; and an act for the more full and complete eſtabliſhment of a public ſeat of learning in this ſtate, ſo far as reſpects the appointment of Truſtees, paſſed at Savannah, the 27th of January, 1785, and to appoint a board of Truſtees, and to define the board of viſitors, and to fix a permanent ſeat for the ſaid Univerſity," paſſed the 5th of December, 1800, for the permanent ſeat of the Univerſity was the county of Jackſon, and a committee was appointed to fix on the immediate ſpot which appeared by ballot to be a place at preſent known by the name of Athens. It is declared to be healthy, which ought to be conſidered as a principal object in the choice, as parents would not long permit their children to remain in an unhealthy ſituation, which would injure, if not deſtroy the conſtitution. And although I could have wiſhed and gave my voice for a more central ſpot; yet as it is now fixed, and it is high time that ſo highly important an object ſhould be ſettled on a firm baſis; I think that no attempt to remove it ſhould be attended to by the legiſlature.

Returns of the ſales of the Indian goods have been rendered, and with the ſpecialties therefor are lodged in the Treaſury.—thoſe undamaged, notwithſtanding their being ſo long on hand, ſold high. I drew on the Treaſury for a balance, in account due the auctioneer, as his commiſſions—his attention and arrangement in the ſale merited approbation.

A man in Hancock county, by the name of Nathan Tate, was convicted of