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From the Abbe Delille's Rural Philosopher.

IN town or country one great truth be known:
That pleasure's best, which is not all our own.
Wretched or happy, man from man receives,
And lives by halves if for himself he lives.
Ye that in verdant fields no pleasures view,
Learn to do good, and pleasure will ensue.
Amidst the city, and its thronging host,
Riches and poverty alike are lost;
But where industrious want and slothful pride,
The castle and the cot, are side by side,
A contrast sad they to the mind present,
And 'gainst the wealthy rouse the indigent.
Then should thy bounty cover envy's spite,
Give life its balance, and misfortune right:
Correct the seasons, and allow the poor
That field to glean his hands has furrow'd o'er;
Fill by its gifts the long, though useful, space,
That into different ranks divides our race

Where canst thou else more strong example find,
Than in the fields, to rouse the generous mind?
There, all around by mutual kindness live;
The beasts, that graze the field, its fatness give.
Yon tree, that moisture from the soil receives,
Gives to the mother earth its dying leaves;
The mountains pour the torrent o'er the lands,
That cools the air; the air in dew expands.
All gives and takes, all serves, and all enjoys!
Man's heart alone the harmony destroys!

Observe yon heir, that rues the treach'rous die,
Run o'er his forests with exacting eye;
Without a tear his rich domains betray,
And, like a burthen, cast his gold away.
Thy gold a burthen!—Impudence of wealth!
Why then does Famine sap yon infant's health?
Why then yon widow'd dame, with pittance scant?
Yon dow'rless maid, or sire that dies for want?

Oh! had it pleas'd the will of bounteous Heaven
To me some subject-hamlet to have given,
Full happy then, and worthy to be so,
Around my dome should plants and flow'rets grow;
The richest fruits should deck the teeming soil,
But most should human faces round me smile.
Never should Famine's pale and haggard mien
Send dismal gloom athwart the happy scene.
But man should toil: the plough-share and the spade,
With sure reward, should wait th' industrious hand,
And labor banish mis'ry from the land.

Nor that suffice; let sickness, age, & pain,
With thee a sure and ready succor gain;
Select the smallest of thy chambers vast,
Adorn'd with order, neat and decent taste;
Let it, with various med'cines amply stor'd,
To want diseas'd a constant aid afford.
Sloth, that from town-fatigue his visit pays,
Your carpet, mirrors, and saloon, may praise;
But this retreat to goodness set apart,
Is sacred only to the feeling heart.

Oft with thy bounties, too, thy presence show,
And thus enhance the blessings you bestow;
And let thy children there, with timid air,
To timid want the secret offering bear:
But most thy daughter, wearing on her face
The first of beauties, Virtue's modest grace,
Should to the wretched like an angel shine,
And pay her first-fruit vows at Bounty's shrine.
Thy offspring thus, with whom thy features grow,
Thy mind, and manners, shall in image show:
Their richest portion your example gives;
And, rear'd by you, their infant virtue lives.
Ye worldly men, disgust that dearly buy,
These pleasures contemplate with jealous eye!

EXTRACTS

From a late performance entitled

CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT

OF THE U. S. OF AMERICA.

By A. B. Woodward, Chief Justice of the Territory of Michigan.

(Concluded.)

Although our policy is pacific, yet the impression that the military departments do not require talent or genius, but professional skill and mechanical assiduity alone, ought not to be too extensively received. If ever our nation, listening to the dictates of folly, or yielding indulgence to her passions, should embark in the mad contests of the world; she may pay by her existence, the forfeit of her mistake. Nor are we perfectly secured from the evil of war; the heaviest calamity to mankind, the most dangerous to republics. The system of revenue, which we have selected, has a tendency, constantly, to expose us to it. While it weakens our attachment to that internal intercourse, the national profits of which are so much superior; it increases our appetite for, and our dependence upon, an external commerce. It annihilates our resources in the exertion to preserve them. It exposes us to all the temptations of war; and debilitates us in the prosecution of it. It paralyses republican valor; and sinks us into the mercenary dependents of foreign countries.

Knowledge being the basis of republican government, none, but men of highly cultivated mind, are generally called to the eminent offices of a republic. Accordingly, in America, the weight of personal talent is so far the strongest inducement to advancement, that it may almost be said to be the only passport to political promotion. In the elections of chief magistrate, the strongest geographical pretensions have been made to yield to superiority of cultivation and talent.

Nor is this high predilection for talent unreasonable. The man of cultivated mind is most liable to be virtuous and disinterested. The petty and dishonorable artifices of attaining, or displaying wealth, sink in his eyes. Wealth holds its proper estimation; regarded as a machine to do good, less than a source of positive enjoyment. Without a turbulent ferocity of character; in trying and splendid emergencies, he exhibits more firmness, energy and courage. From such a man may be expected a stern, fearless, and inflexible integrity. He carries a high sense of personal dignity and independence. There is, in truth, no scale or graduation of merit, by which to estimate the value of a man of sense, genius, and sublime virtue. Before such men titled opulence has depressed her pride; and royalty itself has stood abashed.

Talents and virtue cannot however be duly appreciated, before they have been tried. In a plural depositary of political authority the defect of them, in one, may be compensated by the possession of them in another. In a single administrator of executive power, the consequences of a mistake of the character, are too serious and too delicate to bear full contemplation.

That subserviency and servility, which the weak and ostentatious mind, invested with political elevation, exacts in its immediate vicinity, extends itself through all the ramifications of office. A portion of the citizens, perhaps, from official weight, the most valuable portion too, have their opinions as it were bought, and forestalled. That independence of sentiment and of action; so honorable and so useful in a republic; is undermined in its foundation. The man, constantly surrounded by his personal friends; the companion only of his flatterers and dependants; loses, by degrees, a just sense of himself. He will repel the presence of virtue and talent. He will call around him the weak and subservient alone. He will delight to behold his greatness reflected only by the mirror of imbecility.

In the system proposed, the casual, and probably the eventual successor of the President, participates from the beginning, in the public measures. He is acquainted with the principles on which they have been proposed; and on which they have been conducted. Not merely the confidential adviser, he is, perhaps, the originator of them. The public mind, his own, that of his associates, is naturally led to his succession. Sudden death, or indisposition; the approach of mental or bodily infirmity; produce no sudden and hasty shocks in the government. It becomes really a government of measures, and not of men. An annual expression of the public sentiments, or indication of its wishes, will always serve as a monition; where it does not operate as a command. Where there is a persevering opposition to it, if well founded, it will come at last, with a strength, at which wicked men will tremble; and which good men will obey. Neither can the course of the government be suddenly changed, nor the reasons of that change remain a mystery, and an enigma to the people. There is every probability of which the imperfection of human nature can give us the assurance, that the approbation bestowed will be uniform; and that confidence will be reposed only where merited, and removed only when necessary.

In changing the construction of the executive department of our government prudence will dictate to us to guard vigilantly against the evils which might attend a political measure of so much consequence.

In monarchical forms of government so many strong and personal interests connect the man with his public functions, that it is highly dangerous to propose a change, in any, the smallest respect. Indeed this form of government cannot bear discussion. It shrinks from the eye of reason. It is terrified, with a deadly terror, at the aspect of investigation. It thinks itself safe only when discussion is suppressed. Its subjects too, unused to compare, to reflect, and to act, are soon thrown into disorder. They fight when they are called on to deliberate. Discussion is, with them, an impossibility. Difference of opinion is a cause of hatred; and, from reason, the appeal is quickly made to force. Accordingly, dissention and trouble, and commotion, and bloodshed, mark the revolutions of monarchical countries.

It is eminently honorable to the calm and reflecting mind of America, that there is neither difficulty nor danger in free, but decent and respectful discussion. Her whole system of government, and of action, is the work of reflection and reason. Daily is her citizen called upon, not merely to examine the conduct of his government; but to act on his sense and apprehension of it. To dwell on the dangers of anarchy in the discussion or adoption of any constitutional measures, would be to libel the American people. Their character is already established; and it is known to be neither sanguinary nor fickle. A calm, but inseductible self-possession, has never abandoned them. To speak of dangers and tumult, and violence, as worthy of apprehension, would be fancifully to create them. Silence is the best response to these suggestions.

A radical and constitutional change in the construction of the executive department of her government is, therefore, now respectfully submitted to the consideration of my country.

Its details are exhibited in the appendix to this discusion. They are exhibited thus with more precision; & as most of the propositions, with an informed mind, carry their reasons upon the face of them, a minute and elaborate discussion of them is spared. Two modes of sanctioning amendments being contemplated by the constitution, and the form of effecting one of them, that through the medium of Congress, having been perfectly settled; a form of resolutions is prefixed, in case the other mode should be selected, and with a view to promote uniformity and harmony of action, in such an event. They are succeeded by some tables, illustrating the practical expences under different modifications.

When the quantum of expence, attending the administration of any government, becomes stationary; its burthen is diminished one half, by every duplication of its population. Economy is one, among the many republican virtues. To be distinguished by public confidence, and honor, is alone a happiness; and which can be the lot but of few in society. To be relieved from those cares of subsistence, which consume the days of the great mass of mankind, is no inconsiderable felicity. The depositaries of political power, therefore, in a republic, are required to serve with more assiduity, firmer fidelity, and greater ability; for less compensation, than in corrupt governments. We are however becoming a great nation; and can bear any expence necessary to secure our invaluable government. Thousands correctly dispensed, on this object, save millions, and hundreds of millions, to us as a nation. By a correct government alone can friendship be maintained with foreign countries; and wars, both external, and civil, averted. The advance of our population has been demonstrated, by past experience, to be at the rate of three per centum per annum, in compound ratio; producing a duplication in periods of a little more than twenty-three years. The causes which, for two centuries, have operated to give us this rate of advance, are likely to continue for a considerable period to come. Our rate of advance is indeed more than quadruple that of any part of Europe; three fourths of one per centum per annum being above their highest rate of increase. But a review of the checks which nature has interposed to the progress of population will shew that there is little probability of any material diminution in the rate of our advance for a considerable time. A table is therefore subjoined exhibiting, with allowance, the population of the United States for a century to come; if we should so long remain a free, happy, and united people.

In the operation of the third section there exists a peculiar check.—Harmony and unanimity are the truest proofs of wisdom, in the administration of public affairs. Where reason cannot produce it, there ought to be mutual concession. The world has witnessed wise and learned men acting with unanimity for a course of years. When a permanent division of sentiment arises it is important that the nation should know it. The recurrence of the annual period of election enables it to manifest its sense.—A table is annexed shewing the operation of this principle.

The principle of rotation is now become familiar to the American mind. It is to the state of Virginia we are indebted for the introduction of this valuable political principle. The state of Delaware was the first to follow the example; but to the state of N. York belongs the honor of having given it that modification, which was afterwards engrafted into the constitution, and has since served as a model to many of the states. It has ever been a high gratification that the constitution of my native state is, perhaps, unquestionably the most perfect republican constitution, which the world had yet beheld, at the period of its formation. With others, it is probable that this principle of rotation, in the construction of the Senatorial branch of the legislative department, will gradually become universal among the American republics. The subjoined tables exhibit the progress and present state, of this great political improvement.

The elucidations which have been given are perhaps sufficient to enable the candid investigator to form his judgment. My care has been to render it dispassionate; and without any particular application to times, places, and persons. Avoiding the road of precipitancy, and passion; public opinion marches with a firm and steady step. I know however that our affections, on these subjects, are contagious. We wait to feel with others; nor has ever a proposition, intimately affecting its fate and happiness engaged the attention of a nation, which has not been either rejected or adopted, with a certain portion of enthusiasm.

Citizens of the United States of America! You are possessed of my sentiments. They have been unfolded to you with unlimited frankness, with unreserved sincerity. They spring warm from a heart whose every pulsation beats for your felicity and fame. If you disapprove them, no bosom shall submit in more humble obedience than mine. If they obtain your sanction, my last anxiety shall be that they may be attended with no dangers to your safety and happiness. Already the Greek and Roman name is fading before the lustre of your virtues.—May your liberty and independence endure with the world; and may the the deeds of this day entertwine a fresh laurel in the wreath of your glory!

New York, March 4th 1809.

APPENDIX.

Form of Resolutions submitted to the Legislatures of the respective States.

Whereas the Constitution of the U. States of America provides, that Congress, on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention, for proposing amendments, which shall be valid, as part of the Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode may be proposed by the Congress; and whereas, during a period of more than twenty years, of great agitation and difficulty among nations, in which many of them have experienced, or been threatened with, terrible and sanguinary revolutions, it has been the happiness of the good people of these U. S. under the blessing of Divine Providence, to enjoy with slight exceptions, uninterrupted tranquility and prosperity; & whereas it is, in the opinion of this legislature, essentially necessary to the further continuance of the happiness and tranquility of these U. S. to the preservation of the fraternal affection of their citizens, to the perfection of their republican Institutions and to the permanence of their union as a nation, that the construction of the executive department of the government of the U. S. should be amended and improved, and that a convention, of the good people of these U. S. should be called, for that purpose, therefore,

Resolved by the Senate, and House of Representatives, of this State in General Assembly that the legislature of this state do apply to the Congress of the U. S. to call a convention, for proposing amendments to the Constitution, in the construction of the executive department of the government of the U. S.

Resolved, that the following be recommended, on the part of this legislature, to the good people of these U. S. and to their convention, as articles in addition to, and amendment of, the Constitution of the U. S.

Articles submitted in addition to, & amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

ARTICLE I.

From & after the fourth day of July, which shall be in the year one thousand eight hundred seventeen, the second article of the Constitution of the U. S. and the amendments made thereto, in the year one thousand eight hundred four, shall have no further any force, or effect; and, in lieu thereof, the following article shall be in force.

ARTICLE II.

Section I.—The executive power shall be vested in a Presidency of the U. S. of America. The Presidency shall be composed of a President of the U. S. and four Councillors. The President, and, after the first election, the Councillors, shall hold their offices during the term of five years; and the office of one of them shall expire annually.

The President and Councillors shall be elected in the following manner.

There shall be elected in each state, by the people thereof, a number of electors equal to the number of representatives to which the state may be entitled in the House of Representatives of the U. S. The elections shall be held in districts, equal in number to the number of electors, so that each district shall elect one elector; and so, that, as far as conveniently may be, the districts shall be of equal population. The places, and manner, of holding the elections, shall be prescribed, in each state, by the legislature thereof; but the Congress may, at any time, by law, make, or alter, such regulations. In addition to the said electors, the legislature of each state shall elect two electors, being as many as the state is entitled to senators, in the Senate of the U. S. The said election shall be by ballot; and, where the legislature consists of two branches, both branches shall be assembled in one chamber, & the majority of the whole shall determine the persons elected. No senator, or representative, or person holding an office of trust, or profit, under the U. S. shall be an elector.

The electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot, for one person to be President of the U. S.; for one person to be first councillor of the U. S.; for one person to be second councillor; for one person to be third councillor; and for one person to be fourth councillor.

The person elected to be first councillor of the U. S. at the first election, shall hold his office during the term of four years; the person elected, at the first election, to be second councillor, shall hold his office during the term of three years; the person elected, at the first election, to be third councillor, shall hold his office during the term of two years; and the person elected, at the first election, to be fourth councillor, shall hold his office during the term of one year.

At each election the electors shall make a list of all the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each; which list they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed, to the seat of the government of the U. S. directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate, and House of Representatives, open all the certificates; and the votes shall then be counted. The person having the greatest number of votes shall be the