

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KNIGHTS OF MALTA IN BAVARIA.

DURING the last three years the Military Order of Malta has acted so singular a part on the grand theatre of the world, and even since the Peace of Amiens, has given rise to so much contention among the principal powers of Europe, that accurate information relative to their present state cannot fail of being acceptable to our readers, many of whom probably do not know, that the Bavarian branch (or language, as it is called) of the Order, owed the prolongation of its existence, merely to the threats of the late Emperor Paul of Russia. The Order of St. John of Jerusalem was first introduced into Bavaria by the late elector Charles Theodore, of whose piety and easy temper advantage was frequently taken by designing men. By a Charter, dated the 6th of August, 1781, he established in Bavaria, Neuburg, Sulzbach, and the Upper Palatinate, a branch of that Order, to the honor of God, for the purpose of promoting the interests of the Holy Catholic Religion, for the benefit of the Bavarian Nobility, and the good of the commonwealth; and he conferred upon them the estates and possessions that formerly belonged to the Jesuits. This donation was very considerable; the value of their capital exceeded 600 millions of florins. The language consisted of the grand priories of Munich and Ebersberg, the grand-bailiwick of Neuburg, 23 secular and 4 clerical commanderies. The privilege of having a chancery of their own was likewise granted them, with all the rights and exemptions enjoyed by the nobility; and the grand-prior held the same rank among the states of the electorate as the order of prelates. The other knights who hold commanderies likewise obtained a seat among the states in Bavaria and Neuburg: But in the Upper Palatinate and Sulzbach, where there is no assembly of the states, all the rights and privileges of the noble proprietors of fiefs. The prince of Bretzenstein, a natural son of the elector, had been appointed grand-prior.

When Maximilian Joseph succeeded to the electorate, he considered himself justified in revoking these grants of his predecessor, which had not been confirmed by the approbation of the agnates. The estates of the Jesuits had been originally appropriated to the support of the schools; and as the new elector had resolved to pay particular attention to the amelioration of public instruction, one of his first acts after his accession was, a decree for suppressing the order of Malta in his dominions. Their estates he put under sequestration, the revenues of them being destined to form a fund to defray the expences of the public schools. This new regulation would probably have been productive of the most beneficial effects, and every friend of humanity and the sciences hailed the approach of better days; but, unfortunately, the Emperor Paul of Russia had taken the Order of Malta under his protection, and even accepted the office of grand master. With the vehemence peculiar to him, he protested against the proceedings of the elector of Bavaria, accompanying his protest with threatening hints of the means by which the powerful can enforce compliance with their demands. At that time the third body of auxiliary Russian troops was marching through Bohemia towards the theatre of war: and it is asserted, that Korsakoff, their commander, had orders to treat Bavaria in a hostile manner, if, before his entrance into the electorate, the decree against the knights of Malta should not have been annulled. The elector being unable to resist so powerful an intercession, the knights of Malta have been reinstated in all their possessions, rights, and privileges, in consequence of a treaty signed on the 29th of July, 1799, by Baron Flaxman, grand-croix of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and by Baron Montgelas, Minister of State to the elector. The office of grand-prior is always to be held by a younger prince of the electoral family. That the institution of this new branch might cause no alteration in the constitution of the order, it has been agreed upon that it shall form a part of the English and new Russian languages, and be called the English-Bavarian-Russian Language.—The knights and their estates are to be subject to the statutes of the order, and to the decrees of the grand chapter at Malta; with various exceptions and alterations, however, rendered necessary by the established laws and customs of Bavaria.

ON DRINKING SONGS: AN ESSAY.

THERE is nothing at which I am more offended, than the unpardonable vein of ignorance and brutality, so generally introduced in our drinking songs; nor any thing, in my opinion, which throws a greater reflection on the understanding of a sensible society. If we examine the principal number of these pretty compositions, we shall find that absolute intoxication is recommended as the highest felicity in the world; and we receive the most positive assurances of being upon an equality with angels, the very moment we sink ourselves into a situation considerably lower than men. To look back to the original design of all poetical composition is needless, since every body knows that it was to praise and honor the Supreme Being, with a fervency of devotion, which could not be found in the common form of words. The glorification of the Deity, and the instruction of his creatures, appearing therefore to be the grand view of poetry, how much is it to be lamented, that an art of so sublime a nature should be prostituted to such infamous ends, and instead of being applied to the purposes of religion and virtue, be directed to the support of a vice productive of innumerable ills!

It has been justly observed, that every nation, in proportion as it is civilized, has abolished intemperance in wine, and consequently must be barbarous in proportion as it is addicted to excess. The remark, I am apprehensive, will be found no very great compliment to the people of this kingdom; we are apt to place good fellowship in riot, and have but too natural a promptitude to imagine that the happiness of an evening is promoted by an extravagant circulation of the glass. Hence, are our songs of festivity (as I have already observed) fraught with continual enormities

on the pleasures of intoxication; and the whole tribe of Bacchanalian lyrics are perpetually telling us, how wonderfully sensible it is to destroy our senses, and that nothing can be more rational in a human creature, than to drink till he has not left himself a single glimmer of reason. But if, abstracted from the brutal intention of our drinking songs in general, we should come to consider their merit as literary performances, how very few of them would be found worth a station on a cobbler's stall, or deserving the attention of an auditory at Billingsgate! The best are but so many despicable strings of unmeaning puns and ill-imagined conceits, and betray not more the ignorance of their encouragers, than the barrenness of their authors. Let me only ask the warmest advocate for this species of composition, what, upon cool reflection, he thinks of the following song:

By the gayly-circling glass,
We can see how minutes pass:
By the hollow cask we're told,
How the waning night grows old:
Soon, too soon, the busy day,
Calls us from our sports away:
What have we with day to do?
Sons of care, 'twas made for you.

The foregoing little song, though one of the least offensive in the whole round of a bon vivant collection, has neither thought nor expression to recommend it; and can when sung, be termed no more than an agreeable piece of impertinence, calculated to supply a want of understanding in a company. I forbear to mention the Big-bellied Bottle, and a variety of similar productions, which are universally known and deserve to be as universally despicable; but I shall conclude this essay, with a song, which I would recommend as an example to such gentlemen as are fond of celebrating the grape, though no ways ambitious to do it at the expence of good sense and morality.

THE JUDICIOUS BACCHANAL.

While the bottle to humour and social delight
The smallest assistance can lend;
While it happily keeps up the laugh of the night,
Or enlivens the mind of a friend:

O let me enjoy it, ye bountiful powers!
That my time may deliciously pass;
And should care ever think to intrude on my hours
Scare the haggard away with a glass.

But instead of a rational feast of the sense,
Should discord prelude o'er the bowl;
And folly debate, or contention commence,
From too great an expansion of soul;

Should the man I esteem, or the friend of my breast,
In the ivy feel nought but the rod;
Should I make sweet Religion a profligate jest,
And daringly sport with my God;

From my lips dash the poison, Oh merciful fate!
Where the madness or blasphemy hung;
And let every accent which virtue should hate,
Parch quick on my infamous tongue.

From my sight let the curse be eternally driv'n,
Where my reason so fatally stray'd;
That no more I may offer an insult to heav'n,
Or give man a cause to upbraid.

NEW PATENT.

Mr. Benjamin Hawkins, (Red-Lion-Street, Clerkinwell) has lately obtained a Patent for a new Floating Mill or Engine, to be worked by Tides or Currents of Water, for grinding all sorts of Grain, and various other purposes.

THIS invention consists in converting a ship, brig, sloop or other vessel proper for the purpose, into a floating water-mill, and obtaining sufficient power to work the mill for grinding all sorts of grain; by the application of a sufficient number of water-wheels to the hull of the ship or vessel, in a proper manner to be acted upon by the tide or current, so as to give the wheels a rotatory motion, and by connecting them with proper machinery.

When the ship or mill is to be stationary, it must be made fast, so as to swing with the tide when necessary; but the mill may be worked whilst the vessel in which it is erected is sailing. The number and size of the wheels may be varied in proportion to the size of the vessel, the strength of the current and the power required; and the wheels may be constructed as in common cases, or with folding floats, for the more readily freeing them from the water. They may also be placed in a vertical, horizontal, or oblique direction. The water wheels may extend into the water from three to eight feet; they should be so connected as to be easily engaged with, or disengaged from, each other, so that during the weak part of the tide they may all be made to act on one pair of mill-stones, if necessary, and, as the strength of the tide increases, more stones or other machinery may be put in motion, so as at all times to do business in proportion thereto.

FRANCE.

Memorial of the Engravers and Printers employed at the Manufactories of Printed Cottons in the City of Rouen to the First Consul of the French Republic.

"GENERAL FIRST CONSUL,

"If there be a principle at present generally agreed upon, it is, that the power and true greatness of Empires are the patrimony of the industrious and commercial nations.—England more than any other nation presents a model worthy of imitation. This Empire, consisting of a territory of but small extent, and containing scarcely more than ten millions of individuals, possesses, notwithstanding a marked preponderance in the commercial system of the whole world, far from the war having proved disastrous to this power, amidst the calamities of the nations of the Continent, she has established a denomination of such colossal magnitude, that for a long period no nation can enter into competition with her.

"France more than any other power, seemed destined by the genius of her inhabitants, and her position, to excel that competition, to balance the value of the products of industry, and to maintain the contest of every thing which relates to the perfection of any production; and this has been allowed to her by the unequivocal suffrages of all nations. But the cause which paralyzes our industry and our commerce, originates in circumstances of, perhaps a more powerful operation than any which have been hitherto alleged.

"The French Government, almost incessantly occupied during six years, with its own political dissensions, and having to carry on a war at home and abroad, could but little employ itself in examining these circumstances, and in preventing their effects. The epoch of a general Peace induced a hope of less disastrous consequences. We made bold to inform you, Citizen General, that it is of extreme urgency that you should fix your attention upon the city of Rouen and the department. Our Manufacturing industry is on the verge of ruin, if speedy measures do not stop the decay produced by false theories, and the spirit of the commercial system.

"Some have ventured to assert, that French industry can be carried to the highest perfection only by the stimulus of a rival industry. Where then is this rivalship to be found? Is it in the execution of the processes for completing the products of our industry, or in the want of the raw materials necessary to this perfection? Is it in the channels of consumption for a commerce as yet but very small extent, from the want of confidence? or, in a word, is it, from a more fatal consequence, in the little national spirit possessed by Frenchmen?

"Foreign industry, and particularly that of our powerful rival, enjoys a degree of protection too little regarded by the French merchant, and which, though hitherto overlooked, has rendered it predominant. Ours, on the contrary, compelled to trull to its own efforts, exhibits only decay and complete depression. On the one side there is an abundance of raw materials, and at moderate prices; and immense capitals, and resources always presented by the public banks, enable the Manufacturer to attempt and to support every speculation. On the other, those materials are scarce and very dear; capital is not advanced for the promotion of our Manufactures, but at a ruinous interest; in a word, an exchange destructive of commerce and confidence dries up every source of national prosperity; every thing makes in favour of the rivals of our Manufacturing industry, and we must speedily be involved in total ruin? Yet there are persons who can maintain, that France must have the advantage in a competition where the means are so unequal!

"We hold the same opinion, as to the perfection of objects of industry; but what signifies the value of things, if the sale is not certain, and if the nation give greater advantages to foreign products? Our reflections are fixed on the present state of affairs. Scarcely has maritime peace been proclaimed, when the introduction of merchandize commences, the French ware-houses are overstocked, our Manufactures languish and forbode general ruin. The French soil has not rejected the foreign commodities; avarice and extortion have favored their circulation. See what is the result. The productions of industry incumber the ware-houses of our Manufacturers; labour is repressed; work-shops are shut up; thousands of workmen are thrown out of employment, without even a prospect of being able to gain wherewith to support their numerous families.

"This is but an imperfect view of the picture.—Let us consider the future.—By and by, if such a system cease not; if French commerce prefer the products of foreign nations; if our Manufactories and work-shops receive no encouragement, all is over! All the shops are shut, Manufactures abandoned, talents paralyzed, and thousands of citizens, with their families, reduced to the most frightful poverty! While we are representing to you our fears and alarms, there is not one fourth part of us in a state of activity. Every day witnesses many unfortunate men swelling the list of victims. Those who are yet retained are retained only in consideration of old services, and they are threatened soon to share those calamities with which that class are afflicted, if the Government does not speedily remedy the evil.

"This is not all.—Our hands once become idle, a thousand other States participate our misfortunes by a necessary consequence; our inaction stops their labours; every thing is linked together in a State; if you dam up a brook at the source, the fertile plains it watered are struck with barrenness.

"We are exposing, General Consul, great and touching truths. Oh! that you could hear the cries of want, the sighs, and the despair of the families of our unfortunate companions! They are absolutely naked, and can see nothing before them but more profound distress.

"General Consul, we expect, from your solicitude, a period to those miseries which weigh upon us in so terrible a manner. A few moments more, and our important city will possess no more workmen; many of them will be devoured by want and misery. Disgust and offers from foreigners will have caused the emigration of the rest! What powerful considerations.

"We have spoken the truth: Government is worthy to hear it.—We hope that the First Magistrate of the Republic will turn his paternal regard towards one of the most industrious departments, to the work-shop of our Manufacturers, that their labours may receive encouragement! The workman asks only one favour, that his hands may be constantly employed, that his work may suffice for supplying his wants. Then his wishes will be accomplished."

NOTICE.

ALL Persons who have any legal demands against the Estate of BENAJAH BURTIS, late of this City, Hatter, deceased, are requested to send in their Accounts duly attested to the Subscriber, within Six Months from the date hereof.—And all persons indebted to the said Estate, are desired to make immediate payment to

WILLIAM BURTIS, Administrator,
St. John, 25th September, 1802.