

MR. MACKINTOSH.

This gentleman, who by his speech in defence of poor PELTIER against that usurper and despot, BONAPARTE, has so considerably added to his high reputation as a man of genius, eloquence and virtue, is, though yet young, the same who distinguished himself in the year 1791, by his answer to Mr. BURKE'S Reflections on the Revolution of France, under the title of "Vindiciae Gallica." Early exercised in the study of the Greek and Latin authors, and in the contemplation of the historians and philosophers who have handed down to us the constitutional laws of the Grecian and Roman republics, he was fired with an attachment to republican freedom; and in common with many wise and good, and much elder men, rejoiced at the emancipation (as it was then thought) of the French from despotism.—The natural ardour of a youthful mind sublimed those feelings to something approaching to enthusiasm—Nor can this well be wondered at, when it is recollected that Mr. DUNDAS, now Lord MELVILLE, being in common with the ministers of that day severely censured by Mr. Fox for hastily precipitating the nation into war with France, declared that so far from being to blame in that respect he felt that they were in some sort censurable for not perceiving the necessity of war before.—"But I candidly confess (said he) that I and my friends did at first, and for some time, look upon the change in France with a favorable eye, as likely to better the condition of twenty-seven millions of people. But unfortunately we were mistaken—almost all men were mistaken too—it belonged to one great and illuminated mind alone (BURKE) to perceive, from the very beginning of it, the horrible mischiefs that lurked beneath its flattering appearances, and to discern in it the germ of all those evils and abominations, which I hope and believe we all lament, and now too late deplore."

Who then can blame a youth so circumstanced, and so deeply imbued with the spirit of ancient republican freedom for running, in his fleet career, on that side of the question? Of course, the majority of the learned and wise dissented from the principles, but all concurred in admiring the genius of the man who had written the book. Considering his time of life, it must ever be looked upon as an extraordinary production. Almost a model in its way. What rarely happens with the works of young men, it bears throughout strong indications of modesty; and though he sometimes discloses perhaps too warm indignation against the old gentleman, it is evidently the indignation of high opinion, disappointed and chagrined, and in many parts of it, it breathes respect and affection for Mr. BURKE. When he comes to comment on that part of "the Reflections," where that great man says, "Grand swelling sentiments of liberty I am sure I do not despise"—"Old as I am, I still read the fine raptures of LUCAN and CORNEILLE with pleasure," MACKINTOSH, in a strain of that pious enthusiasm and veneration with which he had been, even from a boy, accustomed to view Mr. BURKE, bursts out, "Long may that virtuous and venerable sage enjoy such pleasures." No one was more forward than that great man himself to do justice to the merits and ingenuity of the work; even in the House of Commons, once speaking of those who had attacked him, he closed with the names of Mr. MACAULEY and Mr. MACKINTOSH, and said, "of the latter of whom, it is my duty in candor to declare, that he has attacked me in the language of a scholar and a gentleman."

Such a mind as MACKINTOSH'S was not likely to remain long under such a black cloud of error. The proceedings in France every day opened on him some new light to truth, his admiration changed to distrust, his distrust to abhorrence; but he did not cease to think that the war was unjust and unnecessary, and he joined in principles Mr. FOX, or rather Mr. SHERIDAN, for it would be biting satire to attribute to Mr. FOX the merit of having any principles at all.

His extreme addition to study retarded for a while his advancement at the bar, and his spirit forbid him to be a brief hunter. It was feared too, that his eloquence would not be fitted for the bar, and from his friends he received many kind hints upon the subject. Once he was employed as counsel at a committee of the House of Commons appointed to decide a contested election. Mr. FOX and the present Lord HAWKESBURY, then Mr. JENKINSON, were of the committee, and Mr. BALDWIN was chairman.—MACKINTOSH made an elegant speech—as he was going out Mr. ——— complimented him—but said, "you refine too much, you are too abstracted for the many, you are falling into the beauties and errors of BURKE—you do refine too much MACKINTOSH! BALDWIN, to be sure, understood you, I believe I did, and JENKINSON will say he did, but not one of the rest will even pretend to have comprehended you."

When Mr. BURKE published his Regicide Peace, Mr. MACKINTOSH, probably from a just consciousness that no one was so capable of doing it fairly as himself, wrote a Review of that stupendous work, which will be found in the monthly review of that period; and which may safely be held up in competition with any critical writing that has ever appeared. He completely dissents from the general principle of the work, but he speaks of it as a composition of a nature in a style of high penegyric; in this I feel

was appointed to give Lectures on the Law of Nature and Nations, in LINCOLN'S Inn; his execution of which was so transcendantly fine, that he was complimented by the learned of all parties. The judges complimented from the bench. Upwards of a hundred Peers and two hundred Commoners, it is said, and almost all the men eminent in political law or jurisprudence in London, attended those Lectures. On one of those occasions he quoted BURKE, and spoke of him in such a strain of applause and pathetic eloquence, that there was not a person present who was not affected, some even to tears.

Mr. MACKINTOSH had an offer some time ago of the place of head of a college, about to be founded at Calcutta, in the East-Indies. But was dissuaded, it is believed, from burying his talents, which promised to be soon an honor and a blessing to his country, in such an obscure situation.—Young as he is, some of his maxims have already acquired the dignity of authority; for he has been quoted in the Senate.

Scotland has the honor of giving birth to this gentleman. And the writer of this has some reason for saying, that he believes Mr. MACKINTOSH is nearly related (in the degree of first cousin) to Mr. CHARLES FRASER, now at the Havannah.

From the Kingston (Jamaica) Gazette, March 19.

BARBADOES, MARCH 1.

As the public attention has been very much interested by the return of the Government schooner Supply, Captain Pinder, from Curracoa, we have endeavoured to possess ourselves of the particulars of her unfortunate voyage, and learn the following:

She sailed from hence about the 2d of January, with Government dispatches, having Lieut. Hitch of the Royal Navy, promoted by Commodore Hood to the command of the De Ruyter, and Lieut. Ince of the 87th regiment, on board, going to join. On the 7th of January, as the Captain informs, he made Curracoa, being then greatly to leeward on the southward, the weather hazy, blowing hard, and the current very rapid to the S. W. On his stretching to the N. to avoid the current, and having sprung his main-mast, he fell as far as St. Domingo, and on the 15th came too in a Bay two or three leagues to the E. of Jacmel; being in want of water, he sent a boat on shore, and Lieutenants Hitch and Ince, taking their fowling-pieces, went with it; on their landing they (as well as the boat's crew) were surrounded by a large party of armed negroes who robbed and tyed them to trees, threatening every moment to murder them. One of the sailors (a mulatto man,) after being eight hours in that situation, was released and sent on board, accompanied by one of the negroes, to bring the Captain ashore, promising him a cargo of coffee on good terms.—From the conduct of this negroe, and the Captain hearing the beating of drums and several volleys of musquetry, he suspected their intention was to get possession of the schooner, and that they had murdered the two unfortunate Officers and his men with them. He therefore made sail, but was becalmed two days off St. Domingo. He, however, reached Curracoa on the 26th, and came too in the harbour on the 29th January. It being necessary to get in another mast and repair the vessel, she was hauled alongside one of the wharves. On the evening of the 31st January, the Captain being on board an American vessel lying alongside his own, some of his men and the cabin boy left the schooner without leave; on his return he found the cabin robbed of several articles, among others his trunk, containing 450 dollars, his own and the vessels papers, and the bag with dispatches, which (Colonel Hughes having sailed from thence, with the British garrison, on the 13th January) he intended to bring back to this Island. Every step was taken at Curracoa, and all possible inquiries made by the Magistrates to recover them, but, at the time of his sailing from thence, without any success.

An opportunity having offered at Curracoa for Jamaica, a British officer there (Lieutenant Bonnett, 40th Regt.) gave information of the above occurrences to Colonel Hughes, and General Nugent's Secretary; and a French Deputy Commissary General having called there in his way to St. Domingo, Lieut. Bonnett also wrote to General Rochambeau, requesting he would take such measures as might, if possible, preserve the lives of his brother officers and the unfortunate men; or, in the event of their having fallen sacrifices to these sanguinary wretches, to communicate the earliest information of it to General Nugent.

The mulatto man, who was released by the brigands, and sent back to the schooner while off St. Domingo, was a deserter from His Majesty's ship L'Heureux, and is now, with the black boy who came off with him from the shore, confined on board L'Heureux in this Bay; and the sailor, who was principally suspected to have robbed the schooner, fell overboard and was drowned.

NEW-YORK, MAY

Extract of a Letter dated Point

12th March.

"Last evening we

quake, the

last

honoured with commissions in their army. In an engagement near Petit Guave, the brigands, under the command of their polish officers, repulsed the French national guards, with the loss of between 50 and 60 men.

Capt. V. informs that these Polanders were urged to a revolt by the treatment which they received from the French. Neither clothed, fed nor paid, they were thrown into the most perilous stations, and otherwise treated with a marked and humiliating distinction. The blacks, he adds, clothe, feed, and pay their troops liberally, and with punctuality.

Capt. V. also informs, that the crops of the Island were mostly destroyed, and Colonial produce not to be had on any consideration.

[Philadelphia paper. April 22, 1803.]  
 "You have no doubt received a copy of the letter from the Spanish minister to the Secretary of State of the United States, communicating the pleasing intelligence of the port of New-Orleans, having been ordered to be opened as heretofore, and to continue open until arrangements be made between the two governments to establish an equivalent place of deposit. In the hurry at the office of state, occasioned by the making up dispatches for the Natches, &c. the communication of a very important fact was not then made in order for publication; Therefore I now relate it to you.—The King of Spain, in the true spirit of Castilian honor, issued his order to the Intendant at New-Orleans under his sign manual, commanding that officer immediately and directly to reinstate the United States in all their rights by treaty, as held and exercised previous to the last unauthorised interruption; which mandate from the King himself, without the intervention of any of his ministers, his representative here was directed to, and did accordingly, communicate and shew to the president of the United States, and has since forwarded it by express to the intendant and governor at New-Orleans.

"This information is derived from a conversation with the president himself."—Aurora.

BOSTON, APRIL 29.

Extract of a Letter from a respectable house in Bordeaux, to a gentleman in this town, dated March 26.

"There has been for a few days past, serious appearances of immediate war, between this country and England.—How the business will terminate it is not yet known. It is however worthy of note, that Bonaparte observed lately to Mr. Livingston, that if such an event should take place, the peace of America would not be disturbed on the part of France. This is reported, and I believe upon good authority."

Extract of a Letter from a respectable Merchant in Bordeaux, dated March 27.

"War is the order of the day—Malta the ostensible bone of contention—and the general opinion is, that an actual state of hostilities cannot be far distant. My private sentiment however is, that an accommodation will take place.—France is too much exposed in her commerce, and too feeble in her fleets, to take the Bull by the horns."

Extract from a well informed American at Bordeaux, March 27, to his friend in Boston.

"Appearances, at this moment, strongly indicate, that Europe is again to be plunged into the horrors of war; and the active preparations making by the government of Great-Britain, induce a belief that this event is almost certain.—The points in controversy between France and Great-Britain, can only be surmised, but it is supposed they relate to a commercial treaty, and a determination, on the part of the latter, to retain, or procure some port in the Mediterranean, for its ships of war. From the measures adopted, and pursued by both countries, the commencement of hostilities may speedily be expected; concession on the part of the First Consul, can only prevent this, to which his ambitious and proud mind, under existing circumstances, will not submit. Since these events, our Minister at Paris is treated with more attention and respect; this argues well, so far as it proves that the government of France desires to cultivate the friendship of the United States, and appreciates its consequence in the political world; it is obviously for the interest of Great-Britain, to adopt similar measures, which it is hoped will prevent the necessity of our uniting with either nation, and thereby insure to us the great advantages of a neutral commerce."

"Coffee and sugar have advanced here considerably."

Extract of a Letter from a Mercantile House of the first respectability in Bordeaux, dated March 27, 1803, to a gentleman in this town.

"For ten days past there has been strong apprehension of war between this country and Great-Britain, which have had great influence on our markets; considerable changes of West-India produce were made at an advance from 5 to 10 per cent; and exchange on London