

SKETCHES  
OF THE  
HISTORY OF AMERICA.

Continued from our 148.

IT was one of the many direct measures employed by Mr. Hamilton, for the excitement of deep and durable mischief. At the house of Captain Dicky, he complained of the *Thirteen Letters* published sometime before the insurrection, by Mr. Findley. He swore that they contained lies against him. His landlord replied, that he believed their contents to be true. Such a foolish demeanor, of which Mr. Hamilton afforded many examples, would have been scarcely pardonable in a boy.

Another trait in the colonel's conduct deserves attentive reflection. The money for defraying the expence of this army was supplied by him in direct opposition to the constitution. That instrument, article i. section ix. clause vi. says, that "no money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law." There existed a statute authorizing the president to call out the militia, in case of an insurrection; but by an oversight in framing the law, he had no power to take money from the treasury to support them. "The monies drawn from the treasury on that occasion (the western expedition) were paid out of a fund appropriated for other distinct purposes. They were not drawn, agreeable to the constitution, in consequence of any appropriation made by law. It might be a defect in the law, authorizing the expence; not to have provided the means; but that defect should have been remedied by the only competent authority, by convening congress." This omission in the law shews the masterly stile in which our statutes are sometimes composed.

If the bombardment of a British fleet, or the disembarkation of a French army, had not left one moment to spare, engulfing necessity would justly have superceded all forms, and vindicated the irregular abstraction of a million of dollars. Yet even in that case, the president, at the next meeting of Congress, ought to have explained and apologized for the measure.

But no such imminent danger had a being. There was ample time to have assembled congress. Neville the inspector's house was burnt on the 17th of July, 1794. The first proclamation by the president was issued on the 7th of August, and the second on the 25th of September following. It was not till after the latter date, that the militia were ordered to march. The seven weeks intervening between the two proclamations allowed full time for assembling the legislature. Of this Mr. Adams hath afforded an instance, in the first session of the fifth congress. Instead of this legal and practicable measure, the president and Mr. Hamilton walked straight through the constitution, through the privileges of the legislature, and the duties of their own respective offices.

If congress had been previously called, the very report of their assembling would have struck a mortal darts into this thoughtless rabble, who had neither plans, leaders, nor resources. The solemnity of the step was sure to make a considerable impression. Time would have been gained also, for more accurate information; and as the fifteen thousand militia, who did march over the mountains, never saw an enemy, it is to be supposed that five thousand could have done the business equally well.

But Mr. Hamilton had many good reasons for not wishing to call Congress. The sound policy of the excise law would have met with a severe discussion. The expence and danger of a civil war must have rendered excise completely odious. Every lenient measure was sure to have been tried before a single regiment would be ordered to march; and the sequel shews that they must have

\* Gallatin, p. 82.

been successful. The sober and substantial mass of the western citizens, though averse to excise, were yet firm on the side of government. In the prospect of an agreement, Hamilton saw nothing but the reprobation of his measures, and the fracture of his importance. The parties in congress are nicely poised; but every legislative assembly has a number of doubtful members, and the natural aversion to civil bloodshed held out an irresistible cause, or a solid pretence, for universally deserting the six per cent. standard. In this case, the latter could not, probably have mustered one third part of the members, and minorities are always dangerous to a political party. The republicans abhor the ex-secretery with a cordiality of hatred equal to his own. They consider him as a second Pandora's box, from whose transcendent capacities for mischief have exclusively and collectively sprung the whole political misfortunes of America. The utmost force of the party was certain therefore to have been levelled personally at him; and his vulnerable sides offered an ample verge for the quivers of invective. Hence he shunned a previous meeting of congress, where it was more than an equal chance that he should find not protection and triumph, but reproach and defeat. This seems to be the only rational key to his conduct in hazarding a civil war, and a rape upon the treasury, without consulting the legislature.

The insignificance of their conduct when they did meet, shewed that the victory of Mr. Hamilton was as complete in Philadelphia as at Pittsburg. On the 19th of November, 1794, the president addressed the two houses. He began, as usual, with a reference to divine goodness, and to the riches, power, and happiness, for which America seems destined. A pompous and exaggerated sketch was then given of the insurrection. Certain self-created societies were referred to, as having assumed the tone of condemnation towards the measures of government. But the president forgot to mention, and much less to apologize, for the self-created power of raising a million of dollars from the public treasury. When he related the outrages, committed upon officers of government, he overlooked the provocations by which they had been excited, the numerous instances of mismanagement on the part of the secretary of the treasury, by which they had been fostered, and the thousand-fold enormities of the federal army, and of that secretary, under which they had been overwhelmed. There is a French fable, of a gardener and a hare, that sometimes came through the hedge, and crop his cabbages. He represented the case to a gentleman, who next day, with a pack of hounds, entered the garden in chase of her. The dogs did more mischief in five minutes, than the hare could have done in seven years; and after all, puss got away.

This is a concise and impartial picture of the federal army, with one small distinction, that the gardener was a fool, and the secretary a knave. Never think that you understand the story of this insurrection till you read Findley and Brackenridge. Compare their copious and interesting narratives with the collection of papers published by government. The temperate and manly stile of the former historian is sometimes clogged with a tiresome length of periods. His reference to dates is occasionally confused, and the remarks which he interperfers, might improve by concentration. But these are trifling specks, and only mentioned here to obviate the hostility of fiseal criticism.

(To be continued.)

\* Almost every one of the ancient historians has been remarkably negligent on this point. Sallust, Livy, and Tacitus, for example, are often inextricably imperfect. Try to follow Caesar through his own account of his first campaign in Belgium, or in his two invasions of Britain. A modern general gives you the date of every transaction. To forbear it, would be pushing out the right eye of his narrative.

BALTIMORE June 16.

By advice from Charleston, South Carolina, per ship *Sufanna* and brig *Enterprise*, lately arrived, we are informed that the laws of that respecting the slave trade, so long dormant, have lately revived in the following instance. The schooner *Mohawk* said to belong to Mann and Foltz, of Charleston, but simlily covered as Danish property, and commanded by the noted Nathaniel. A Oglon, had been for some time lying off and on before that port from St. Thomas, with 78 slaves under the expectation, as was supposed; that purchasers would come off to her. From some cause however, (probably lest they themselves should be kidnapped) it was declined; and the patience of the captain became at length so exhausted as to lead him to seek a market by going on shore somewhere between Charleston and Savannah: while this he was on errand, the Crew, no less impatient than the captain to avoid the intense rays of the sun, ran the vessel into the harbor of Charleston, where she now lies, before fort Johnson, with a comfortable awning over her and a proper guard on board. How far money may prevail to arreft the hand of justice, time will determine.

Such printers as are friendly to the abolition of slavery, will publish the above, that the parties engaged in such nefarious traffic may be exposed.

By a gentleman from Fort Wilkinson, we are informed (says the *Augusta Herald* of the 9th inst) that, previous to his leaving that place, about 1000 or 1200 Indians had arrived there, for the purpose of attending the Treaty---that the meeting between the Federal commissioners and the Indian Chiefs had taken place in a spacious square prepared for the purpose, and that after the ceremonies on the occasion were over, one of the Chiefs addressed Col. Hawkins, and observed, that the red and white people could now meet like brothers, that the hatchet was buried deep in the ground, and he hoped there would be no occasion of raising it again for ever.

POUGHKEEPSIE, July 6.

On Thursday night last, the *Aurora Borealis* made their appearance in as brilliant and splendid a manner as we ever recollect to have seen. A luminous arch, or semicircle, extended from the North-West to the North-East, the diameter of which might be about 20 degrees above the horizon. From all parts of the arch, (which to appearance was about one yard in width) long pyramidal columns of apparent flame shot forth; some of which reached to the zenith, alternately rising, brightening, and fading away. The space beneath the arch, quite to its base, was filled with a black substance, resembling smoke, interspersed with spots of inconceivable brightness. The light which they reflected, was equal to the morning twilight, a short time before sun rising. The wind breezed gently from the south. Farenheit's thermometer had not for several days much varied from the degree of summer heat; the next day it arose several degrees higher. During the appearance of the light, there was, distinctly to be heard, a low murmuring sound in the region of the north, like the roar of distant wind. This we have remarked on several similar occasions.

These phenomena have appeared, at different periods, since about the year 1720; previous to that time we have no account of them, either in Europe or America. They are common in Canada, Iceland, Greenland, and other northern countries. They were very frequent in the time of the late American war, since which they have rarely visited us. The causes of their appearance have not yet been accounted for on philosophic principles.

HARTFORD, June 23.

On Tuesday the 23d of June instant, a son of Mr. Jesse Case, junr. of Sim-

bury, aged 7 years, with four other boys, the eldest not 10 years, went, unknown to their parents, some distance from any house to a large tree about two feet and an half diameter, which was partly rotten and attempted to cut it down. After having worked till they were discouraged, they sat down by the tree. It being about sunset, two of them went away. Within a few minutes, the tree fell. On their discovering that it was falling, the boys attempted to escape, which they all effected, except Mr. Case's son, who taking the direction in which the tree was going, was caught under it, and crushed to death in a shocking manner. The cries of the survivors drew their friends to the spot, where Mr. Case found his child. The corpse was buried the following day, and a solemn discourse preached at the funeral by the Rev. Jeremiah Hallock, from Ezek. XVIII. 4, "All souls are mine."

TO FARMERS.

A most excellent Method of making BUTTER, as now practiced in England, which effectually prevents its changing and becoming ranc.

The day before churning, scald the cream in a clean iron kettle, over a clear fire, taking care that it does not boil over. As soon as it begins to boil, or is sufficiently scalded, strain it, when the particles of milk which tended to sower and change the butter, are separated and left behind. Put the vessel into which it was strained in a tub of water, in a cellar, till next morning, when it will be ready for churning, and become butter in less than a quarter of the time required in the common method. It will also be hard, with a peculiar additional sweetness, and will not change.---The labor in this way is less than the other, as the butter comes so much sooner, and saves so much labor in working out the butter-milk. By this method good butter may be made in the hottest weather.

MARTINSBURG, June 25.

On the morning of the 13th inst. a horrid murder was perpetrated near Garrards Town in this County, by a certain James Martin on Mr. Samuel Fulton, who has for a long time acted in the capacity of Conitible, and has uniformly bore an upright and respectable character.

What led to this unfortunate affair, was, as we are informed, as follows; A state warrant had been issued against Martin for a breach of the peace; acting under the authority of this instrument, the deceased went to the house of Martin to take him, where he found the said Martin with an axe in his hands; as soon as Mr. Fulton was observed by Martin, he, with many asseverations and threats, desired Fulton to keep at a distance, that if he approached a step nigher he would certainly kill him. Mr. Fulton with all possible mildness endeavoured to pacify Martin, and with gentleness persuaded him to desist; but Martin still more enraged called to one of his sons to bring him his gun---the boy hesitated---Mrs. Martin observing his reluctance, snatched the gun from the place it hung on, and rushed out of the house with it, and cocking it presented it to her husband, and with fiend like imprecations, directed him to shoot the d---d rascal; he took the gun from his wife, and with fatal effect executed her directions, after which they effected their escape together, and have not yet been heard of.

Mr. Fulton was taken up and conveyed to a Mr. White's, where he expired in about eight hours after. On the next day a jury of inquest was summoned; who brought in a verdict of wilful murder, committed by James Martin, with malice aforethought, and Mary his wife accessory thereto.

What renders this murder peculiar, distressing, is, that Mr. Fulton has left an amiable wife and five small children.

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS has been subscribed for apprehending the said Martin.