

THE EXAMINER.

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THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. SWIFT.

No. 190.

SPANISH INQUISITION.

It is the fashion to regard the various lamentable effects of the French Revolution as things altogether new and distinct from the old evils of political abuse; and the crafty deduction is evident. The good principles to which the Revolutionists pretended, are confounded with the bad ones upon which they acted; and change itself, however confined in its action or desirable in its degree, is made another word for perversion. This false view of the reforming principle,—this confusion of the use with the abuse,—is perhaps a greater evil, and promises more lasting danger to real freedom, than any of the more flagrant effects of that ill-managed event; and its real character may be estimated by the tone of smiling recrimination and affected experience, which is adopted by all the courtly or corrupt classes of society in various parts of Europe. There is not one of these classes which does not make use of it, in their respective countries, in order to divert inquiry and obstruct reformation. In England, it forms the cant of the Ministers and their adherents, when they would set the popular opinion at naught, and vindicate any servile or bigotted measure that helps to keep them in their places. In Germany, it is used in order to account for all the evils which the military misfortunes of the state have brought upon the people, and which are studiously traced, not, as they ought to be, to the corruptions and prejudices of the state itself, but to the French bribery and the pernicious influence of French manners. Even BONAPARTE is too cunning and too much given to the appetites of legitimate despots, not to make use of it in order to deceive the French themselves: the Revolution, in all its bearings, he affects to consider as a most shocking thing—an event which must have horrified all well-disposed people,—a catastrophe not arising out of the faults of government but out of the mere excesses of bad men; and accordingly, with an impudence worthy of his former politics, and a policy worthy of the most legitimate impudence, he has caused himself to be represented, in the questions and answers of the French cahiers, as a monarch who has peculiar claims to the gratitude of the rising generation for his restoration of the legitimate order of things.

When a subsequent revolution however took place in another country, it might have been expected that in avoiding the fatal errors of the French anarchists, this error, no less fatal, would have been avoided too; and that they so great a lesson on the uses and abuses of revolu-

tion, a due line would have been drawn between adherence to prejudice and adherence to principle. But in no country could revolution have stood a worse chance than in Spain; for not only is there no country in which the upper and ruling orders have been more interested or more successful in hindering the progress of knowledge; but the invaders, by attacking the worst prejudices as well as best rights of the nation, gave the Courtiers and Monks the most specious of opportunities to confound bigotry with patriotism, and consequently to make the people fight for the preservation of those very corruptions which ultimately had brought invasion upon them. When the revolution broke out, there were other men who would willingly have assisted to give it a character besides the Courtiers and Monks; but they were silenced, in an instant, by an outcry about the Holy Religion; and liberality of sentiment was proscribed as the greatest friend which the invaders could obtain,—a compliment always paid to the French with an ignorance equally fatal and absurd. If a momentary strength was thus given to Spanish resistance by an appeal to the most wretched prejudices, it was only the strength of delirium and of blind anger. Our short-sighted politicians would never have clapped their hands as they did at the officious generalship of the Monks, and the exploits of Our Lady of the Pillar, had they foreseen what perplexity, what division of mind and effort, what bitterness to all enlightened men even in the midst of Spanish victory, and what increasing probability of eventual Spanish defeat, those perversions of the patriotic feeling were calculated to produce. It is true, they endeavoured to gloss over this sort of encouragement by fancying that Spanish bigotry was rather a name than any thing else,—something that was very useful to the cause at the moment, but that would inevitably vanish before the light of freedom, when no longer necessary; and the common report, for years past, tended to corroborate their real or affected supposition on this head, by representing the Inquisition, in particular, as an institution utterly gone by with regard to religion, and converted into a mere engine of State. But the report contradicted itself as far as it looked to any distinction between the political and religious character of that execrable institution: for to what political purpose could a religious tribunal have been put, but to overawe opinion of every kind, that should step out of the allotted circle? And how was it to become an engine of State, but by encouraging malicious persons to denounce liberal politicians as free-thinkers in religion,—crimes indeed little likely to be found number in a country so overgrown with corruption both in Church and State? The truth is, that if the Inquisition has ever been an engine of State, it has only been in this way; and so far from having lost its spirit of terrorism, it

has only accommodated it to circumstances; it is still the arbiter and the tyrant of Spanish opinion, conscience, and national character.

For a knowledge of this fact, which is no mean one in helping us to appreciate the character and prospects of the present struggle in the Peninsula, the public are indebted to the Editor of a Spanish periodical work, published in the metropolis, and called the *Espanol*.^{*} According to this Gentleman, who has been but too well acquainted with the melancholy truths he describes, it is public opinion that has changed, and not the Inquisition itself,—at least if the fanaticism of the Inquisitors has in some measure “yielded to the character of the times,” he thinks that its severest laws would still be put openly in force, had the objects of their punishments had any inclination, as formerly, to dispute the matter. The igneous principle is still in existence,—the sacred fire is still kept alive in the recesses of the Temple,—but there is no voluntary fuel, as of old, to feed it into a blaze. The last *auto de fe* took place in Seville about thirty years since, and the Editor of the *Espanol*, who was then a child, remembers seeing the pile.[†] This was the last burning, because it was the last provocation given to the burning principle by the spirit of contradiction. Nothing can be a clearer proof of the progress of heresy, or rather of religious indifference. The heretic was formerly burned because he differed in degree only with the orthodox:—he now escapes the flames, because he differs altogether, or does not care about the difference. So truly was it said by the Philosopher, that the Inquisition was an invention to render Monks omnipotent, and their countrymen hypocritical.

Well! cries a careless observer, who has no idea of an Inquisition without its racks and fires, and whose passion for the terrible has been over wrought by the portraits of it drawn in its better days,—What is there so very alarming or obnoxious in this tribunal, now that people are no longer burnt,—now that there are no exhibitions of torches and san-benitos,—no surrounding multitudes with their faces lit up by the conflagration of their friends and

^{*} See a “Letter upon the Mischievous Influence of the Spanish Inquisition as it actually exists,” translated from the *Espanol*. Johnson and Co. The Editor, Mr. BLANCO WHITE, is well known in Spain, not only from his present publication, but as having been the conductor, and I believe projector, of a celebrated Journal at Seville, which was somewhat too enlightened to suit the twilight eyes of his countrymen. Though a Spaniard, he is of British origin, and has a spirit truly worthy of it. His family name of WHITE was translated into BLANCO upon the settlement of his ancestors in Spain, and in translating it, he has preserved both appellations.

[†] The fact has been before mentioned in the *Examiner*, but the offence was erroneously stated to have been witchcraft. It was a sort of witchcraft indeed,—the seduction of some pious Ministers into heresy by a young female devotee. I forbear to quote the story from the Letter abovementioned, as an injustice to the publication itself, which is well worthy of

relations?—Such questions, according to the Editor of the *Espanol*, would be best resolved by a residence of some years in the reach of the Inquisitorial officiousness. The visitor of Spain, instead of being beguiled, as he now is, by the apparent comfort of the prisons and by the smiles with which the Inquisitors receive his queries about the torture, would then learn the real terrors of that hand which is in every place on every occasion, and which continually moves before him, whether alone or in society, whether thinking, reading, or conversing. “He would then feel,” says Mr. WHITE, in a happy allusion to one of the old punishments of the tribunal, “how tormenting is this drop of water, incessantly falling upon one.”

The truth is, that as the whole range of education is reduced in France under the control of the imperial authority, so in Spain it is still more subservient to that of the Inquisition. In France, you are still allowed to study any thing that does not interfere with the tyrannical views of the government; you may perfect yourself in the arts and sciences; you may enjoy all the luxuries of the Belles Lettres; you may become an historian, a logician, a philosopher. But in Spain, the very names of such things are hardly to be pronounced. The arts and sciences are worldly wisdom,—something which will teach you to differ with the ancient Jews in astronomy, and with the true Catholics in legislation:—the Belles Lettres are enticements to freethinking, because they soften the hearts of mankind towards each other, and because, which is a great deal worse, they may teach one to discover a difference between the style of St. JOHN and of XENOPHON:—history tells us a great deal which is highly scandalous to the reputation of the Mother Church;—logic goes so far as positively to improve our reasoning faculties, which are so many stumbling-blocks to faith:—and as to philosophy it is well known that the greatest evils of society, murder and massacre not excepted, have been owing to philosophy!—Accordingly, every publication, great or small, celebrated or obscure, that does not fall within the opinion of the Inquisition, is literally proscribed in Spain; and a young native, ardent for information, has no alternative

[†] It is the same in the Spanish Colonies. “Such is the vigilance of the Inquisition,” says DEPOS (Vol. I. p. 319. Transl.) “that the regulation concerning the police of books, more rigorously executed, both in Europe and America, than any other regulation appertaining to the Spanish regime.” The whole passage on this subject is very curious and explanatory. Among the writings prohibited he mentions those of ADAM SMITH, BECCARIA, LA BRUYERE, &c. &c. and even poor *Robinson Crusoe*:—but indeed there is no work of repute that has not obtained this honour, “the expurgatory list,” as Mr. WHITE informs us, “being an index of all the excellent books that have ever appeared in the Republic of Letters, including even (till every lately) the Bible.”—As an instance of the ludicrous horror of the Inquisitors at all books with even an appearance of indecorum, it is a well-known fact, that when SWIFT published his little burlesque upon the astrological predictions of that unlucky wight, PARTRIDGE, it was formally anathematized in this manner by the Inquisition at Lisbon.

but to remain ignorant or to hazard the anathemas of the church,—no alternative but to sit down despising himself and his masters, or to be in continual jeopardy for fear of every step that approaches his room and every eye that is turned towards him.

“Imagine to yourself,” says Mr. WHITE, “a young man beginning his studies in Spain, and who after having spent some years at the university, either from a natural disposition, or from the insinuations of some enlightened man, begins to perceive that all his labour is in vain, and that he must seek for instruction elsewhere than in schools. Although these necessarily occupy his time, the thirst for knowledge gives him strength, and he seeks for books to satiate it.—Oh,—history:—yes, history is indispensable, but where shall he study it? For a young man, who has to repeat by heart, daily, four or six pages of Thomas Aquinas, or Vinnus, it is impossible that he should read the originals at length. Essays on history he dares not in conscience read. The Holy Inquisition has prohibited them all, and there is an excommunication against those who should possess them. MILLOT, CONDILLAC, VOLTAIRE—it is needless to repeat the list. In Spain, no elementary works of this description have been written; they must be sought in a language easily understood, and all foreign writers stumble upon the usurpations and the children of the Popes—The Inquisition prefers that young men should not know history. Even ecclesiastical history is a dangerous business, for FLEURY is suspicious: his Dissertations are prohibited. RACINE! even those who possess a licence are not allowed to read him: and with respect to MOSHEIM, he has been declared to distil poison. Let us listen to NATAL ALEXANDER.—But would it not be excellent, that in order to purify one’s memory of the Logical Rules of *Barbara, Celarent*, and of those Metaphysical Treatises, in which the nature of angels is so nicely described, we should read something of that science which analyzes the thought, and teaches the admirable construction of language, thus giving order and exactness to our ideas?—Yes: the science of LOCKE—but LOCKE is prohibited, as well as every book to be found in Spain which follows his traces.—At any rate, one might study the famous science of the Law of Nature and of Nations, and the principles of legislation? Oh, no! by no means.—This indeed is the great scandal. The lists of prohibitions do not omit a single author who has treated of laws and politics; and from the crafty MACHIAVEL to the modest FALANGIERI, they are all alike under the blackest anathema. If you wish to study laws, you may read the *Nueva Recopilacion** and the *Febrero*.” +—pp. 17. 19.

Thus the very concealment of books forms its own punishment; and if detection is not followed by such enormities as were formerly in use, it is difficult to say in what

the eventual punishment may actually consist. “The inquisitors,” says Mr. WHITE, in a note to page 15, “are not accountable for the judgment they pass, or for the punishment they inflict: they are the absolute masters of imprisoning any body, of keeping their prisoners as long as they please, and of disposing of them as they please;” and “all this is done with the profoundest secrecy.” The first step which they take is generally to deprive you of your books, which have probably been collected at equal hazard and expense:—the name of the offender is then posted up in the tribunal, as a signal for regarding him thenceforward as a suspicious person; and “besides the humiliation of enduring a severe reprimand, the wretch who has met with this misfortune must be in continual apprehension and dread, lest one of those secret causes should be pending against him, which end, perhaps, after six or eight years, in confinement. Are these,” continues the Editor, in a strain of just indignation,—“are these trifling evils? Even if they were, who that has blood in his veins can consider as a trifling evil, a breath even proceeding from such arbitrary injustice and tyranny?”

The effects of such a system upon the national mind are evident. Those whom it does not keep ignorant, it must render miserable; for it is no easy task, even to the strongest of minds, to break through ties which it has been taught to fear or to respect; and even a contempt of the restrictions cannot prevent continual alarm, on account of the friends who are in the secret, whether they have assisted the thirst for knowledge and are therefore liable to be betrayed, or are shocked at it from a mistaken zeal, and are therefore likely to betray. In keeping then the majority of the nation ignorant, and in making the more thinking part unhappy and disgusted, the absurdity of continuing such a system is as manifest in point of policy as the bad passion of it is with regard to religion. Spain is threatened with conquest by an acute and enterprising people, who make every possible use of modern enquiries; and to enable her to resist them properly, it is necessary that her eyes should be open,—or, at any rate, that she should not persist in a blindness which gives them so many advantages. Indeed it would be a new waste of time to reason upon the matter. Mr. WHITE, notwithstanding the miseries he himself has experienced from the Inquisition (see page 21.), has the moderation to wish for nothing further, in the present state of things, than to procure every suspected book, as well as person, a just and good hearing before condemnation, and to confine the punishment of anti-religious offences to an open ecclesiastical censure, distinguished from all civil punishment and effect whatsoever. His advice on this head is well worthy the attention of both the Spanish and English Government; but it is to be feared that the latter does not find itself sufficiently at home in the confidence of the former to give it recommendation: and as to Spain itself, it is to be feared that the very proposal of such measures, especially from an injured

* New Abridgment, an undigested Compilation of the Laws of Spain.—*Espan.*

+ Febrero, a sort of Attorney’s Guide.—*Espan.*

countryman, would only tend to confirm her obstinacy against them. So lucky have the French ever been in having certain loop-holes for conquest wilfully left them by their opponents! So fatally have they been allowed to maintain a few little, but advantageous, posts on the ground of liberality, which the rest of their system made them unworthy to keep, and of which it was as easy as it was important to deprive them.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

BOULOGNE, SEPT. 5.—The flotilla off this port does not content itself with making a mere line of defence, but every day performs evolutions. The day before yesterday the wind was at N. E. blowing a fresh gale; the flotilla consisted of 63 armed vessels of different descriptions.—The Marshal Duke of Blachingen, Commander of the camp at Boulogne, and the Rear-Admiral Blake, Commander of the flotilla, are embarked, and have passed the day in the line. Two English brigs of war being in sight, the Rear-Admiral went on board one of the praams with the gunners, and gave them chase; the result of which was a cannonade, which lasted about an hour, in which our vessels received some shot in their hulls; but one of the enemy's brigs having suffered great damage, they were obliged to make sail to the northward, and owed their safety to their flight.

SPAIN.

[From the Regency Gazette, Aug. 10.]

NOTE TRANSMITTED BY THE HON. H. WELLESLEY, THE ENGLISH MINISTER, TO DON EUSEBIO DE BARDAXI Y AZAKA, FIRST SECRETARY OF STATE.

MOST EXCELLENT SIR,

I have hitherto abstained from calling the attention of the Spanish Government to the rumours and writings which have for some time been circulated in Cadiz, in the belief that my firmness and moderation might disarm those who have endeavoured to weaken the bonds of friendship and confidence which so happily, and with so many advantages to the cause, have hitherto subsisted between Great Britain and Spain.

But the papers that have been published, as well as the reports that have been circulated, have at length become so injurious to the British good name and character, and so adapted to promote the interests of the enemy, and sow dissensions between the allied nations, that I should be wanting to the duties of my charge, and to all the sentiments of an Englishman, anxious for the happy issue of this glorious and interesting cause, if I could look with indifference on the unjust and unfounded calumnies which are daily accumulated against my country.

To give a specimen of the terms in which these assertions are conveyed, and which originate, as it appears to me, from a certain class of persons, I think it will be sufficient to request your Excellency to read the subjoined paper, in which are imputed to my Sovereign, to his Government, and to the British nation, intentions destitute of honour, of justice, and of good faith, and entirely subversive of all the principles with which Great Britain has come forward to aid the cause of the Spanish nation. But the complaints and imputations contained in this paper, relative to the conduct of Great Britain, the rumours noticed in the month of March last, are again revived, that the Spanish Provinces bordering on Portugal were placed under the military command of Lord Wellington, that the Spanish army was to be placed under English Officers, and, in a word, withdrawn from subordination to the Spanish military authorities, in order to form an army truly British. To the British Government is also attributed the design of sending to Cadiz a

reinforcement of troops sufficient to take possession of this city and island, and retain it in the name and possession of his Britannic Majesty.

Considering the sacrifices which Great Britain has made in support of the Spanish cause—considering her repeated declarations of the conduct which she has resolved to observe with respect to the Spanish colonies, some of which have been published in the Gazette of the Regency—considering the decisive proof she has just given of her disinterested views, by offering her mediation between Spain and the colonies which have refused to acknowledge the authority of the mother country, I ought to be far from being under the necessity to refute charges such as those contained in this paper. In fact, it was necessary that we should find ourselves in a situation so critical as that in which we are reduced to the narrow limits of this place, the salvation of which depends on harmony and good understanding, so indispensable at all times, but especially at this critical moment, to consent to suffer the humiliation of vindicating the honour of my country, attacked as it has been by publication, the malignant tendency of which are sufficiently apparent. Desirous, however, to preserve without the least alteration the sentiments of mutual respect and esteem with which the two nations are mutually animated, I consider myself as under an obligation to deny, in the most positive and solemn manner, in the name of his Britannic Majesty, that of his Government, and that of the whole British Nation, all imputation of views of aggrandizement, or territorial acquisition, either in Europe or America, at the expence of the Spanish Nation.

With the same positiveness, I deny that there is any foundation for the interpretation given to the notes which I presented in the month of March last, suggesting that the Spanish provinces on the borders of Portugal should be placed under the temporary authority of Lord Wellington, as by this no more was intended than to authorize him to derive from them the military supplies which they were capable of furnishing.

I in like manner, solemnly affirm, that neither my Sovereign, nor his Government, had any intention to render themselves masters of Cadiz, and that if any reinforcements were sent to this city, it was solely and exclusively in order to contribute to the defence of this important position, and preserve it to the crown of Spain. Lastly,

I repeat what on many occasions I have declared to your Excellency, that Great Britain, in taking part in this contest, had no other view than to assist the glorious efforts of the Spanish Nation to recover its liberty and independence, and that she persevered in it without any idea of her own aggrandizement or any exclusive advantage which she might derive from the unfortunate circumstances to which the Spanish Nation has been reduced, but solely to contribute to the expulsion of the enemy, and the re-establishment of the integrity and independence of the Spanish Monarchy.

In conclusion, most Excellent Sir, I earnestly entreat your Excellency will be pleased to present, with the least possible delay, this Note to the Council of Regency, and I think myself obliged to demand from the Spanish Government, that all proper publicity may be given to it, in order to prevent the serious consequences which must inevitably result, should the Spanish Nation once conceive the intentions of the English Nation to be such as the injurious suspicions which the rumours and writings circulated through this city are calculated to inspire.

I have the honour to reiterate to your Excellency the assurances of my distinguished consideration. H. WELLESLEY.

ANSWER.

SIR,—Without loss of time I presented to the Council of Regency the Note which your Excellency was pleased to transmit to me on the 5th inst. as well as a copy of the paper lately printed and published in this city. His Excellency, fully impressed with what your Excellency has been pleased to state concerning the malicious rumours which have been for some time so industriously circulated in these parts, has ordered me, above all things, to declare, that believing himself concerned as much as your Excellency in discrediting reports and writings which in the least degree offend the respect and decorum due to his Britannic Majesty, his Government, and the English Nation,

will most willingly hasten to publish the Note of your Excellency with his Reply, well persuaded that their publication cannot fail to undeceive the incautious, who have allowed themselves to be seduced by people who intend to destroy the friendship and amity which happily, and without the least interruption, subsists between the two allied Nations, and without which neither union nor concord can subsist between their respective Governments. In regard to the imputations to which your Excellency refers in your Note, considering them as injurious to the august Sovereignty as to the Government of the British Nation, they cannot certainly be attributed to the generality of the inhabitants of Cadiz, of the bulwark of Spanish independence, much less to the Nation in general, who has given so many proofs of its gratitude for the generous assistance of Great Britain. They can, therefore, have their origin only in the imagination of some individuals, who, influenced by the enemy, or carried away by the desire of being singular in their opinions and writings, aspire at an ephemeral celebrity, to which they sacrifice the most sacred interests of their country, which they do not know, or prefer to their own. Fortunately, the number of persons engaged in introducing mistrust between the two allied Nations is very limited, and so very inferior to those who properly appreciate the generous efforts of Great Britain, in the present contest, that they can never obtain the end which they have proposed; but rather, on the contrary, the artifice employed by the enemy to sow discord being once known, as well as the instruments made use of, both will be included in the execration of all good Spaniards, who, without dispute, constitute the greater part of those who compose the vast Monarchy. Nothing proves so much what I have stated as the injurious suspicions which accompany the reports and rumours spread respecting the pretended occupation of Cadiz by the troops of his Britannic Majesty, to which the French have contributed from the first day they presented themselves before this place, for the purpose of introducing discord, and producing mistrust in the minds of its inhabitants. The object of this imposture being known, it will not be difficult to comprehend the views of those who are so eager in circulating and giving credit to them; but the public, in reading the concluding expressions of your Excellency on this point, and well persuaded that the two Governments cannot do less than agree in respect to the number of troops necessary for the defence of so important a position, will remain tranquil in the confidence with which the Government must inspire them, and in the good faith of the British Cabinet. The same Council of Regency has more than once been the mark of calumnies more or less injurious, both in words and writings; but, certain of its rectitude of conduct, and that nothing could be attached, with the least foundation, contrary to the decorum and dignity of its Representation, is thoroughly satisfied that it has its support in the opinion of the good. Consequently, his Excellency has charged me to inform your Excellency, that the Spanish Nation, as well as its Government, far from paying attention to the insidious remarks which the enemy has succeeded in continually scattering, to dissolve the firm bonds which unite the two Powers, are completely convinced, that nothing but the combined efforts of both can bring to a glorious conclusion the arduous enterprise for which they have fought, and they are, therefore, penetrated with the just gratitude they owe Great Britain, for the lively interest with which, from the commencement of the war, it has protected and assisted Spain, in defence of their King and political independence.—The expressions contained in this Reply, and the sincere protestation that the Council of Regency ardently desires, as your Excellency must know, to every day draw closer the relations of friendship and reciprocal confidence between both nations, will, without doubt, suffice to calm the inquietude which momentarily was excited in the mind of your Excellency, by the rumours and writings which gave occasion for your Excellency's Note, and at the same time flatter myself will insure the continuation of the aid which the painful situation of Spain renders so indispensable, in order to happily conclude the heroic contest in which it is engaged, and whose success must necessarily be favourable through the united efforts of the two united Nations. I reiterate to your Excel-

lency my great esteem and consideration.—God preserve your Excellency many years.

EUSEBIO DI BARDAXI Y AZARA.

Cadiz, August 7.

CADIZ, Aug. 26:—The third army, on the 10th, after an action gallantly supported, and keeping for many hours the field of battle, has made a retrograde movement, and established its head-quarters in Murcia. It appears, the enemy endeavoured to surround it by Zajar, and that, in its present position, it covers Lorea and Caravaca. We are assured that Gen. Begues has obtained considerable advantages in the camp at Gibraltar.

MURCIA, August 17.—The whole army is arrived here on its retreat. On the 9th, after the arrival of Soult with 8000 men, we were attacked at two different points at the same time. One of these was defended by Gen. Freyre, and with so much skill and bravery, that he completely defeated the enemy; on the other they succeeded, owing to the absence of Quadra's division, consisting of 6000 men, and 3000 troops of the expedition, which, according to a previous arrangement, ought to have been at this post. The line here was broken, and in consequence, the Spanish and Walloon Guards, the regiment of Patria and the Cazadores, were left unprotected, and, unfortunately, in a great measure, fell victims, after the most heroic resistance. Their loss was increased for want of the cavalry and artillery, which were with Quadra. No pen can describe the deeds of valour performed by Gen. Freyre, and the troops under his command, and the greatest praise is due to that General for the masterly retreat he made, of 37 leagues, without losing a single man, nor the most trifling implement of war, under all the disadvantages of his situation, being entirely cut off by the enemy. If Senor Quadra had taken up his position on this day, it would have been one of the most glorious for the nation. The enemy is at present three leagues on the other side of Lorea.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

CASE OF DISTRESS.—James Booth, and his wife, are aged and poor people, living in the village of Tallington, near Stamford, Lincolnshire. Their son, who has attained the age of 24 years, has been, from his birth, an idiot, deprived of speech and the use of his limbs;—incapable of helping himself to food, and unable to distinguish the hand that tends his wants and supplies his incapacities. In this wretched state of existence, he continued to the age of seven, when disease in its most afflicting shape was added to his other miseries. Since that period, he may truly be said to have suffered unremitting agony; extended on a cradle, from which his imbecilities never permits him to rise, his groans are incessant, and his otherwise vacant countenance shews in its contortions the most lively expression of acute pain. In the violence of the writhings occasioned by his torture, he has broken his limbs, and the continued agitation of his body must ever prevent them from being healed;—the extremities of the bones, where the fractures have taken place, are bare to the eye, and have produced hideous sores in addition to the others with which the body of the unhappy victim is covered. Sleep but seldom interposes to give a respite to his miseries, for he is afflicted with a severe cough, the paroxysms of which are more than commonly troublesome in the night, and which, by shaking his weak and lacerated frame, sharpen his pangs; and compel him to break in upon its silence by screams and groans. Helpless, deprived of reason, and racked with pain, in the obscure abode of poverty, his case presents an unusual complication of the severest ills with which Providence sees meet to visit mankind; and the distressed feelings of the reader, when perusing this shocking statement, will

no doubt direct his pity towards those who have perpetually before their eyes what is here but imperfectly described,—and whose emotions are far more acute, than even those of general compassion, arising from the impulse of nature, in the breasts of parents, witnessing the agonies of their child, while they are conscious that the supply of his daily wants is rendered uncertain by their extreme poverty, and increasing infirmities. If any thing were wanting to give interest to this narrative, it would be supplied, in the patient, humble, and unobtrusive deportment of those afflicted parents. Through their silence on the subject of their distresses; they have hitherto gone unrelieved, with the exception of an allowance of 2s. 6d. per week from the parish, a mere trifle. It is almost needless to say, that the whole time of the mother is occupied by her suffering son, whom, for the purposes of cleanliness, she is obliged to lift in and out of the cradle in which he lies stretched. His many sores she daily dresses, she feeds, washes, and tends him with the care due to infancy; and distinguishes this scene of misery and poverty by an air of decency and neatness. Her great fear is, lest her husband and herself should be removed by death from their unfortunate child, in which case, as she herself says, "Who will there be to take care of him?"—To relieve this, the most distressing of her anxieties, and to afford some assistance to the present wants of the family, a subscription has been set on foot. Every enquiry relative to the case will be answered on application to the Rev. J. Mossop, Deeping Saint James; Henry Fryer, Esq. Stamford; Mr. Holland, surgeon, Market Deeping; and Mr. Butler, Old Jewry, London.—*Stamford News.*

On Wednesday se'night, Arthur Bailey was executed near Ilchester, for stealing a letter from the Bath Post-office, containing the property of Messrs. Slack, and for forging an endorsement to one of the bills. He shewed the greatest firmness on the way to the fatal tree; and when under the gallows, he joined fervently in prayer, and addressed the spectators audibly:—"I hope you will take warning;" and holding a prayer-book in his hand—"I hope and beg you to look often into this book, and you will not come to shame. Be sure to be honest, and not covet money—cursed money! and particularly money that is not your own." He was then deprived of his mortal state of existence, dying without a struggle. Shortly after his conviction, Mr. Bridle, the keeper of the gaol, gave him a list of several letters reported to have been lost from the Bath Post-office, and which it is supposed he must have had some knowledge of. On this paper he wrote—"I have clearly examined this list, and there is only one I really know of; must beg to be excused from saying which. A. B."—On another part of it, he adds,—"It has been said I have had concerns with others in the Post-office, now I do positively declare to God, I have had concerns with no one. A. B."—Bailey had some hopes of a reprieve till Monday, when his Solicitor informed him that all applications to the Secretary of State, the Postmaster-General, and to the Judge who tried him, were in vain. As the prisoner before could only be brought to acknowledge the crime for which he had been convicted, the Under Sheriff, in consequence of several letters he had received to that effect, thought he might be brought to make a further confession.—Consequently, on Tuesday morning, after he had taken an affectionate and distressing leave of his wife and six children, had received the Sacrament, and been left to himself and own reflections for some hours, Mr. Melliar, with much humanity, again urged him to the matter, mentioning particular letters which had been lost, and to which Bailey firmly replied—"I must request, Sir, you will not press me farther on this subject; I have made a solemn engagement with Almighty God, that I will not disclose more than I have done, which I think would be a heinous and additional sin to break; if I had not made this engagement, I would readily, Sir, answer all your questions and remove all difficulties."—Afterwards he observed—"I am about to suffer for what has been truly proved against me; all the rest must die with me."—*Bath Herald.*

Wednesday se'night, an artillery soldier, who paid his addresses to a servant girl at Lewes, under a promise speedily of making her his wife, was so smote by his conscience, on her

telling him she had information of his being a married man, that he went into a stable and hung himself; but being soon after discovered by a boy, about twelve years of age, he, with great resolution, took from his pocket a knife, and cut the man down in time to save his life. It is rather singular, that the fair object of his attachment, a year or two ago, should have put her life in similar peril, and had been discovered in time to preserve it.

A man and a boy, lately employed in fixing a pump on Beeston-hill, near Leeds, on their descent into the well, met the black damp, as it is called, and were precipitated to the bottom in a lifeless state. The boy was soon restored to animation; but the man laid at the bottom three quarters of an hour, and when brought up, all signs of life had vanished; but after having been exposed to the air for nearly an hour, the vital spark was rekindled. It may be gratifying to the curious to know how death in this way attacks his subjects. According to the man's own account, he felt the azote operate upon him like a powerful disposition to sleep, and he sunk into his death-like state with as much freedom from pain as persons usually sink to rest. While he was at the bottom, all sensation was of course extinct, but he describes his feelings when he began to revive, as those of a person recovering from a state of extreme intoxication; and so powerful were the effects of the pernicious air he had inhaled, that he was several days before he could be said to be in a collected state of mind.

A few days since, a poor cottager's wife, whilst leasing in a stubble between Amersham and Chelsham, left her infant child, something more than a month old, sleeping under a hedge in the field. On her seeking it the babe was gone, to the inexpressible grief of the mother. It was supposed that some animal had destroyed the child—and a bait of horse-flesh having been laid at the spot where the child had been lost, it was devoured by two badgers. The lurking place of the badgers were discovered in an adjacent wood; but no trace was found of the remains of the lost child.—Another account says, it is supposed that the infant was devoured by a voracious sow; some remains of the babe having been discovered, which warrants the conclusion.

It is not, we believe, generally known, that at the last York Assizes, it was established, as a point of law, that bank notes with the optional clause, "Cash, or Bank of England Notes," are an illegal issue, and that the holders of such notes cannot recover upon them. We have abstained for some weeks from mentioning the decision, to give the houses who had notes of this description in circulation an opportunity of replacing them.—(*Leeds Mercury.*)

An action brought by Miss Hannah Rudd, late of this town against Mr. Hodgson, of Darlington, surgeon, for breach of promise of marriage, stood on the cause list at Durham Assizes, and attracted a great number of people from Darlington, where it had excited a strong interest; the cause, however, was never entered into, but a verdict taken for the lady, by consent, for 5,000*l.* subject to a reference out of Court.—(*Leeds Mercury.*)

At Leyburn, the place of residence of R. Staplyton, Esq., most diabolical attempt was made upon the life of the above gentleman, and two friends upon a visit with him. The breakfast had been over but a few minutes on Saturday morning the 31st ult. when one of the party complained of serious indisposition, which was succeeded by a similar complaint from the other two, and also a female servant, who afterwards partook of the same. Mr. Terry, a medical gentleman, was immediately called in (who pronounced the cause to be poison) whose timely and skilful assistance we are happy to say the parties are now out of danger.—(*Newcastle Paper.*)

It is stated in a Westmoreland paper, that a sister of the late Captain Cook has resided many years in Packhorse-yard, Strangemongate, Kendal. Her name is Agnes Harker; she is the widow of Simon Harker, and is now at the advanced age of eighty-eight. She displays a quick discernment, has a good flow of spirits, and retentive memory. She has had ten children, but they have all left her except the youngest daughter. The manual employment is spinning and knitting worsted stockings which affords them but a scanty subsistence.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Downing-street, Sept. 17, 1811.

A Dispatch, of which the following is an extract, was yesterday received at the Office of the Earl of Liverpool, addressed to his Lordship by General Lord Viscount Wellington, dated Fuente Guinaldo, 21st August, 1811.

The enemy have made no movement of any importance since I addressed your Lordship on the 14th. On that evening a detachment, consisting of about 1200 infantry and cavalry, arrived at Gata, which is on the south side of the mountains which separate Casfile from Estremadura; and on the following morning they surprised a small picquet in St Martin de Trebejo, under Lieut. Wood, of the 11th Light Dragoons, whom they made prisoner with ten men, and went off that evening to Moralego, and on the next morning to Monte Hermoso.

BANKRUPTCIES ENLARGED.

P. Mathews, Copthall-court, merchant, from September 21 to Nov. 2.

T. Nicholls, Plymouth, merchant, from Sept. 21 to Nov. 9.

E. Warren, and L. Smith, of Austin-friars, merchants, from Sept. 17 to the 21st.

BANKRUPTCIES SUPERSEDED.

J. Broad, Vine-street, Pedlar's-acre, Surry, dealer.

F. Lambert, Nottingham, hosier.

J. Smith, Manchester, cotton-manufacturer.

M. Warren, Furze Hall, Essex, merchant.

BANKRUPTS.

W. Ball, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, vintner.

L. Brickwood, St. Andrew Undershaft, dealer.

H. Foster, and Co. Basinghall-street, warehouseman.

J. T. Gritten, Boston, wine-merchant.

J. V. Millingen, Sion-square.

J. E. Wilson, Houndsditch, hardwareman.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty-Office, Sept. 21, 1811.

Copy of a Letter from the Hon. Captain Cadogan, of the *Havannah*.

His Majesty's ship *Havannah*, at Sea, Sept. 7.

SIR,—Some of the enemy's coasting vessels having taken shelter under a battery of three twelve-pounders on the south-west side of the Penmarks, I yesterday morning sent my First Lieutenant (William Hamley), with the boats of this ship, to spike the guns, and bring them out or destroy them, which service he performed, according to the subjoined list, without the loss of a man, in a manner that does great credit to himself as well as all the officers and men employed upon the occasion.—I have the honour to be, &c.

GEORGE CADOGAN.

L'Aimable Fanny, schooner, laden with wine and brandy, taken.

St. Jean, chasse marée, laden with salt, taken.

Le Petit Jean Baptiste, chasse marée, laden with wine and brandy, taken.

Le Bonaparte, chasse marée, laden with wine and brandy, taken.

Le Voltigeur, chasse marée, laden with wine and brandy, taken.

Chasse marée, name unknown, laden with wine and brandy, dismantled and set fire to, afterwards extinguished.

BANKRUPTCIES ENLARGED.

J. Sisley, Beckley, Sussex, shopkeeper, from Sept. 24 to Oct. 5.—S. C. Webb, Bath, money-scrivener, to Oct. 11.—

C. Gypson, Hackey-road, Middlesex, dealer and chapman, from Sept. 17 to Nov. 5.

BANKRUPTS.

T. Wilson, Liverpool, and T. Green, Burslem, Staffordshire, manufacturers of earthenware.

E. Anger, Eastbourne, Sussex, merchant.

D. Laraby, Daventree, Northamptonshire, miller.

G. Cox, Wood-street, London, factor.

B. Nobles, Scaldond, Bedfordshire, taylor.

W. Wardle, Liverpool, cotton-merchant.

P. Lewis, Birmingham, merchant.

S. Fursman, Plymouth, baker.

J. W. Scott, Grantham, banker.

W. Newman, Borking, silk-throwster.

P. Hodge, Barnstaple, builder.

G. Gudgin, Clipstone street, Mary-le-bone, straw-hat-manufacturer.

J. Postles, Manchester, builder.

H. and R. S. Cooper, Mount-street, coach-makers.

VERITAS, and other Communications, next week.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 22.

By dispatches, dated 28th August, which arrived from Portugal on Friday, it appears, that Lord Wellington had not changed his head-quarters from their old situation, and that there was no truth in the rumoured fall of Ciudad Rodrigo. The city had merely been blockaded.—The general aspect of things seemed to be a busy kind of repose, the heat of the weather disposing the respective commanders to keep their situations, while a general accession of troops was taking place at the several stations. The arrival of fresh conscripts in the North of Spain is acknowledged; but by far the worst appearance in that country is, the jealousy of the inhabitants towards their allies, which becomes more manifest every day; so much so indeed, that Mr. HENRY WELLESLEY, our Minister there, has thought proper to write an Official Note to the Secretary of the Regency, in vindication of the views of his Cabinet with regard to the Peninsula. Enough has already been said in the *Examiner* on this most lamentable matter, which is the very thing of all others calculated to give a fatal strength to the increased endeavours of the French. The present English Ministers are not much in the habit of courting misfortune by the liberality of their sentiments; but in the present instance, it is really to be feared, that the jealousy on the part of the Spanish Authorities will be found to have been in exact proportion to the quantity of good and liberal advice given them by their defenders. It is impossible to quit the slightest remark on this subject without regretting, again and again, that the Spanish revolution was not of a more complete nature, and instead of leaving the ghost of the old Court to sit with a withering hollowness on the vacant throne, did not give the body of the people it's proper elevation and energy, in a cause that required such solid weapons.

The following account of the capture of the American frigate *President*, commanded by Commodore ROBERTS, has been transmitted from Plymouth. No such account has been received at the Admiralty, though a similar one has been sent to Lloyd's:—

"Plymouth, Sept. 19.—The *Melampus*, 30, Captain E. Hawker, was cruising on her station, and perceiving a large frigate bearing down upon her; lay-to, with her topsails to the mast. The frigate soon proved to be the *President*, 44, Commodore Rodgers, who hailed the *Melampus*, and rather peremptorily ordered Captain H. to discharge all American seamen on board his ship, and send them on board the *President*. Captain H. said he could not discharge one seaman from his ship without an order from the Admiralty or his own Admiral; on which Commodore Rodgers said, "I must use force," and fired a short athwart the fore part of the *Melampus*. He then repeated the same demand, and fired a second shot; then repeated the same demand, and fired a third; on which Capt. H. poured in such a whacking broadside as quite hulled the *President*, when a desperate action began, and continued for some time: the *President's* fire then slackened, and the *Melampus's* fire was continued with great vigour, when the *President* struck her colours, and was conducted to Halifax. This account comes by the *Peacock*, 18, Capt. Peake, which arrived here this morning; she spoke a brig from Halifax, out 36 days, which left the *Melampus* and *President* at Halifax; the master of this brig told Capt. P. the above account of this gallant action."

EXTRACT OF A SECOND LETTER.

"After the second shot was fired, Commodore Rodgers again asked, whether Capt. Hawker would now give the men up?—No, was the reply. A second shot was fired, and the demand repeated; and on a third shot being fired, an action commenced. The *President* struck, having lost 50 or 60 men killed and wounded. I have not ascertained the loss on board the *Melampus*.—The Captain of the English merchant brig declares he saw the *Melampus* towing the *President* into Halifax."

The firing from the French coast, as our readers will see by the following letter from Dover, was incessant nearly the whole of Friday—it was the heaviest that has been heard for three years.

"Dover, Sept. 20.

"This morning, about nine o'clock, a very heavy firing began, and the heaviest and quickest that has been heard here for upwards of three years; it was too quick for a salute or rejoicing, and more resembled the firing in an engagement, being a constant discharge from heavy guns; the wind was to the southward and eastward and moderate weather; some suppose that it is from their batteries, of which we learn that there were about seventy sail yesterday in Boulogne Roads.

"Five o'clock.—Some fishermen just returned state, that the firing heard here proceeds from some heavy guns placed near the Tower. One frigate and some gun-brigs are at anchor off Boulogne, but out of the reach of shot, which they do not return. No cause can be assigned for this tremendous firing, unless Bonaparte is on the coast, surveying his newly-erected Tower.

"A boat, said to have on board 12,000 guineas, has been driven on shore on the North Sands-end, by the Decoy cutter. Three men killed and wounded, and the money was all thrown into the sea. A large galley, also said to be concerned in the exportation of coin, has been seized, rowing with eight oars."

It was expected that the dispatches received on Friday from Lord Wellington would have appeared in last night's Gazette, but the public were not even indulged with an extract.—The following Bulletin, said to contain their contents, was circulated in the Public Offices on Friday:—

"No movement of importance had taken place in the Western Provinces of Spain. But one division of French troops that had been in garrison in the North, and had been relieved by the Conscripts lately arrived from France, had moved to Valladolid and Rio Seco. Marmont is also understood to have concentrated his troops more than he had done in the first instance.

"The extreme heat obliged the armies to remain in their cantonments, and the Allies maintained the blockade of Ciudad Rodrigo; but there appeared no preparations for undertaking the regular siege of that place.

"Owing to the influence of the season, there had been some increase in the numbers of our sick; but the cases were generally slight, and the deaths were very few."

The Third Army of the Spaniards, under General FRETRE, has been defeated with considerable loss by SOULT, in consequence of which, the Spaniards have retreated to Murcia. The details of this affair are by no means such as to enable us to form a clear idea of the battle. Even the scene of action is not named, and it is uncertain whether BLAKE was present. In one fact there is a general agreement—that the battle was lost in consequence of the absence of the Spanish General QUADRA's division, consisting of 6000 men.

Driven to desperation by the oppression of the Continental System, the people in Prussian Pomerania are said to have risen *en-masse*, 40, or 50,000 men.

It having been reported to the Cortes, that a number of British ships were under orders to proceed direct from that country to the Spanish colonies of America, the subject was brought into discussion, on a motion being made that such commerce should be legalised. The debate was conducted with great animation, during a very long sitting, in which all the demands and pretensions of England were asserted on the most liberal principles in support of the motion; but at length, the narrow policy of the Spaniards prevailed, and the measure was negatived by a great majority. In the course of the examination of the commercial relations of the two countries, it was shewn, that the English, instead of being treated as allies, and as the most favoured nation, had, in some respects, been discouraged more than others, which had very inferior claims to indulgence from Spain.

From the *Abelle Du Nord* of Aug. 27, 1811. "The Editor of this paper, having imprudently inserted in the papers, Nos. 51, 66, and 67, an anecdote taken from works published a considerable time back, and which do not belong to the history of the present time, which is the object of this paper, makes known, that, in consequence of this indiscretion it has been imposed as a punishment by the police, and enjoined by the supreme authority, that he must abstain from inserting anecdotes drawn even from the history of times past, calculated to offend Governments on friendly terms with that of Denmark."

"The Vote of a sum passed in Parliament, for the payment of Officers Widows' Pensions, last Session, was 51,530l. which, at a drawback of one shilling in the pound, which is the sum allowed to the Paymaster by the warrant, makes the produce two thousand five hundred and seventy-two pounds, for the present year.—How much it will produce the next year, it is impossible to say, but we imagine, that at least one hundred and eighty unfortunate ladies have, by the calamities of the war, been added to the list; which number, at the average of 50l. each (the pensions being from 20 to 80l. both inclusive) would make the total amount 60,000l. and the increase, of course, 3000l."—*Morning Chronicle*.

ROBERT THORNTON, Esq. M. P. for Colchester, is appointed Marshal of the Admiralty, in the room of the late Mr. CHICKER.

At the Middlesex Sessions yesterday, Mr. BARRY moved to put off the trial of *Andrews* and *Alexander Hall* for fraud, on the ground that when taken, they were without the means of procuring the testimony of *bankers and others*, whom they wished to call as witnesses.—After a reply from Mr. ALLEY, the Court refused the motion; when the learned Counsel, in answer to the ingenious argument of Mr. BARRY, that the trial would occupy a long time, observed, that he would pledge himself to prove the case against the prisoners in a very short time.—The prisoners will be tried on Monday.—*Tucker*, the sham Parson, traversed until the next Sessions.

The following appeal is inserted at the earliest request of a Gentleman, who is satisfied that the person to whom it refers is a constant reader of the *Examiner*:—"D. S. M. is conjured, by every tie of nature and of gratitude, to dissipate the anxiety under which a near and benevolent relation is now suffering from his unguarded and precipitate absence. His friends are authorised to assure him, that every doubt will be satisfactorily removed on his return.—It is earnestly desired that he will no longer withhold the means of communication, or continue to aggravate his indiscretion by an ill-judged silence, which may extort a decision equally revolting to his own feelings, and those of the bosom that he has wounded. It is hoped that he is yet accessible to the dictates of prudence; and that his unbiassed sentiments will lead him to acknowledge the sincerity of that powerful interest, which his personal welfare still maintains in the mind of the party who thus unwillingly (but, she trusts, not ineffectually) calls upon him."

THE KING'S ILLNESS.

"Windsor Castle, Sept. 15.

"His Majesty's state continues the same."

"Windsor Castle, Sept. 16.

"His Majesty continues in the same state."

"Windsor Castle, Sept. 17.

"The King continues in the same state."

"Windsor Castle, Sept. 18.

"His Majesty continues in the same state."

"Windsor Castle, Sept. 19.

"No change has taken place in his Majesty's symptoms."

"Windsor Castle, Sept. 20.

"There is no change in his Majesty's state."

"Windsor Castle, Sept. 21.

"His Majesty's state has not varied for some time past."

THEATRICAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Sta.—In the last paragraph of *Tyro's* ingenious dissertation on the *Πορφύρα* and *Purpura* of the ancients, he makes use of the following words, from which, I must confess, no very satisfactory inference seems to me capable of being drawn. He says, "For my own part, notwithstanding the scrupulous attentions paid to the purple costumes, I do not think it more absurd for Romans to appear on the stage in the dress of our own country and times, than to speak in the language of it. To all lovers of nature this idea must constantly obtrude itself, and prevent them from giving up the reins of their imagination into the author's hands for many moments together." This appears to defend that preposterous custom of attiring all stage-heroes in British habits, on the score of the actors being obliged to conform their language to the ears of the auditory; and to imply, that because one irremediable inconsistency does and ever must exist in our theatre, another, which is only equally bad, might just as well remain

likewise. Thus the writer seems to hint, that if Roman personages appear classically habited on our stage, they ought to discourse in Latin; or if they speak English, they may, with similar propriety, adopt the English costume.

It must be confessed, that on calm consideration, it is an absurdity to hear a Roman express himself in our national language; but is not this evil totally unavoidable,—for who would think of making him talk Latin before an audience, the greater part of whom understand not a word of that tongue? On the other hand, *Tyro* acknowledges it is quite as absurd to see a Roman habited in a modern garb: but is *this* incongruity unavoidable also? No; for we can clothe him in the vestments of his country and times; and the justness of this, every well-read English scholar is able to perceive and appreciate.

It is an indisputable truth, that accuracy of dress greatly assists the effect of scenic illusion; and if we can correct but one flaw in the *speculum naturæ*, its reflected images will approach that one degree nearer in their resemblance to reality.

I would ask your learned Correspondent, if, when of two absurdities which presented themselves, one only could be removed, he would choose to retain both, because both could not be abolished?

As I do not wish to waste any great portion of your Paper in trifling discussion, and as you may perhaps think I have said too much already, I now beg leave to conclude by reminding *Tyro* of the old adage, "*Minima de malis*;" which may be paraphrastically rendered, "When you have the choice of two evils or one, prefer the latter."

I remain, Sir, your constant Reader,

Wednesday, Sept. 11.

Ω.

NEGRO FACULTIES.

I am sorry, Mr. Examiner, you should have taken my term "revenge" in the full extent of its meaning, as you seem to have done—nothing was further from my heart and soul than any such application of it;—"pique" would have been a better term, as that was the degree to which I meant it should be felt.—I thought "little bit of revenge" would have secured me from such a supposition.—However, as irritation and explanation are not arguments for the intellects of negroes,—allow me to go on.—You say I have misrepresented things; I ask you as I did about *Camper*, &c. &c. being exaggerators—Where?—I have read over my letter with the greatest attention, and the only thing I can discover that will bear this imputation, is my taking what you say about form, and applying it to what you say about intellect:—but where is the misrepresentation? If you allow, that the few fine formed blacks that have appeared are exceptions, when they are brought forward as proofs, that blacks have not naturally the characteristics of brutality in form, why will you not allow, that the few blacks of acute intellects that have appeared, are exceptions too? if you allow it in one instance, why not allow it in all?—You tell me to read and digest, and to think a little more on the subject. May I not with a "commiserating shake of the head," make the same request to you?—The names you mention, my dear Mr. Examiner, I have long since had the courage and the candour to examine, and from the same source, I can give you an addition, the pretty and acute negroes of *Yverdun*.—But to proceed:—I will now simply recapitulate my principles, without, I hope,

tiring the patience of your readers or of my antagonists.—I compare the form of an intellectual being with the form of a quadruped, a being of no intellect; and where the quadruped differs in form from the intellectual being, these differences I take as points, in form, characteristic of a deficiency of intellect; and where the intellectual differs from the brutal, as points characteristic, in form, of perfection of intellect. In ascending from the quadruped, I find monkeys approach in these points the characteristics of intellect; and as the bodily powers are always adapted to the intellectual, I imagine a corresponding ascent in intellect, and am borne out by facts.—In descending from the intellectual to the negro, I find he departs in these points from the characteristics of intellect, and approaches the characteristics of brutality. Here then are the great links of a chain in form—I venture to imagine a corresponding chain in intellect, and with one solitary *illustrous* exception, in 4000 years, am borne out by facts also. My motives for entering into this discussion, were not (God forbid!) to depress the character of the negro, but to investigate a truth, and to defend the characters of artists—from seeing you treat lightly a subject, which I knew to be the result of patient investigation.—Artists are too much received in society as little more than *skilful rascalinists*, and have always been considered of too little weight in the intellectual scale of this nation, both by the government and by the people, and there cannot be a more effectual method of still keeping up the prejudices against their powers, than by treating their systems and their principles as if they were the result of narrow minds. I am aware, how this would apply to those who treat lightly the intellectual powers of the negroes—but have I treated them lightly?—Our professional studies excite us to examine the bodies of Europeans, of negroes, of monkeys, and of brutes, and finding such singular gradations in form from the one to the other, and knowing, on the principles of association, that intellect or brutality will always be associated with that form where intellect or brutality has always existed; in wishing to excite high intellectual associations, of course we avoid all forms that will excite the slightest association of brutality. I have never asserted negroes to be *absolutely* defective in intellect, but it has always appeared to me a singular coincidence, with their alliances to brutes in form, that they should have such a suspicious intellect, as to be obliged to depend on such proofs for it, as that one played on the violin, another was an *excellent draughtsman*, another acquainted with the physical sciences, another who showed a taste for literature,* &c. &c. &c.

* The wonder is, when enlightened Europeans have been so long searching out for intellect among negroes, so willing to grasp at all that has appeared; so willing to make allowances—not that they have obtained so many examples, but they have obtained so few; and what is the value of the intellects of those they have?—Tell me of an intellectual discovery, that has enlarged the bounds of science? and when Blumenbach says, "Ignatius Sancho has introduced himself to general notice by his interesting letters;"—the question is, what is the value?—Do they contain observation on the vices and virtues of mankind, like those of Johnson? and as to his being consulted by Mortimer; how high does Mortimer rank?—I am aware, these examples by Blumenbach are brought forward as proofs of what the negroes can do now, to shew what they may do afterwards.—But I do suspect (for what reasons I have shewn) that they are in a link, out of which nothing on

when the amount of all these examples, is, that they have been able to comprehend what Europeans have invented. The slave-trade did not always exist: we find no discussions in Rome about the intellects of the Britons, the Gauls, the Germans, or the Spaniards—It is a most singular question, never before asked or doubted in the world, of any of its inhabitants.—Why have they not burst forth as other nations have burst forth?—they have not always been in "the distorted attitude of slavery!"—the habits, the laws, and the manners of Rome, which civilized Europe, had no effect on them: Africa was still as brutalized when the Romans left it, as when they came.—These are my views of the subject, they may be unenlightened ones; but if to be afraid to assert facts from nature and history, because you may suffer the imputations of being *unfeeling*, or the *old prejudice*, of not suffering "negroes to be men like yourself," be enlightened, I shall always hope, to remain unblest by a ray.—It is *unfeeling* to try experiments on animals, to pull up bodies for dissection; but what would become of science, if such ridiculous prejudices, or the fear of such imputations, checked either? As to the negroes being employed in all the handicraft work in the West Indies, this goes against them, having had such opportunities;—and why the Greeks have not become negroes after 2000 years oppression, is easily answered:—Nature is divided into animals, minerals and vegetables, and again, into classes, orders, genera, species and varieties; and *external* circumstances or habits, of whatever description, are totally unable to change the respective species of either; minerals can no more become animals, than animals can become minerals, and so forth; oppression and brutal habits can no more make a Greek a negro, than education can elevate a negro to a Greek;—the great Author of the universe has fixed links, one after the other, from intellect down to the polypus, down to the lowest insect which can be discovered only by microscopes, and though united by almost imperceptible links, nothing *external* can change the species of each; education can no more make a negro a Greek, than a monkey a negro, or a lion a monkey, or a mineral a lion, &c. &c.; a Greek may be a *debased Greek*, but his *nature* cannot be totally changed. It is impossible a vegetable can ever become an intellectual being,—and why should the gradations from one to the other be more liable to trespass on the respective species of each, by any habit, or any change of situation? But the Greeks are *not* brutalized or barbarians: there are still men in Athens, who relish Homer; who are still refined; who are still sensible to the tyranny they suffer; who, as they wander amid the ruins of the mighty Parthenon, in the twilight of a silvery dawn, or the silence of a golden evening, look back with desponding enthusiasm on the days of their intellectual grandeur, and lament, with a sigh, their physical incapacity of extirpating their tyrannical oppressors.—"Man, in whatever clime he may be born," says Niger, "wants nothing but education to develop his intellectual powers." Here is the great point of disagreement;—now we are

earth can extricate them; they may become happy, and quiet, and innocent; but I suspect *their intellect*, not their virtues—doves are innocent. If this suspicion is just, it is the duty of Europeans to nourish, protect, and defend them, as fathers do their unenlightened children, instead of crush, trample, and oppress them, as the stronger brute does the weaker.

coming to a conclusion. I say the intellectual powers *must* exist, or education will have very little power to develop them*. Can perseverance remedy original depravity of bodily formation, and why are the powers of the mind more pliable? A rope-dancer must have a leg—a boxer an arm. No man can become either the one or the other without natural powers, and yet every man can get intellectual power, the most wonderful of all power, though denied him by nature, by education! No man by education can undergo the labours of Hercules, *without powers*; and why should any man be able to produce the Iliad?—"From parity of reasoning," proceeds *Niger*, "must it not be supposed an educated negro may express, with his black face, the intelligence of his mind?"—No doubt of it. All beings have the power to express their intelligence according to their respective capacities. I have never denied the powers of expression to the negro, or the intelligence he has; but the *quality* of that intelligence is what I suspect. Of their feelings and their sympathies, of their falling on each others necks, and weeping, like Joseph and his father, after long absence, Park gives many affecting anecdotes: but this says nothing for their intellect: all beings have their affections and their sympathies: but the powers of deducing, inventing, and imagining—here is the great distinction; and I deny that equally educating a given number of white and black children would produce equal effects.

That form is able to express the intellect, the habits, or the characters of beings, no man of reflection will deny.—Are not the weaknesses, the lost intellect, the approaching debility of age, associated with its features and form? Does not the form of childhood equally excite associations of its innocence and its thoughtlessness; and will the form of the one ever excite the associations of the other?—These are the extremes, which all people can perceive; and why should the refined approaches from the one to the other be less true, because they are perceptible only to those who study these things? why should not the shades from intellect to idiocy, from virtue to vice, from refinement to brutality, and the gradations from one extreme to the other, of every passion that agitates a human being, be equally expressed on the form and features, and be equally associated with it, as well as the gradations from age to infancy?—Do we ever associate intellect, or its consequences, with the form of a tulip?—If a tulip had ever possessed such a faculty, its consequences must have been impressed on its form; as "the action of mind and body is mutual and continual;" but it never has, nor ever will, without such a revolution of things, as must change the constitution of Nature; therefore, we never can, nor ever will, associate intellect with the form of a tulip; and a tulip never can, nor ever will express such a quality by its form to us. It cannot be proved, certainly, that because a man has a small lobe to his ear, because his feet are flat, or his auricles approach inversion, because his jaws protrude, or his forehead recedes, it cannot be proved deficiency of intellect *must* always follow; from expe-

* It may be said again, the negro has never been educated, therefore his intellects have not had trial; but who educated the other intellectual nations of the world? They gradually advanced from the improvements of each other; and why have not negroes advanced on the same principle? They have not always been harassed and checked by the diabolical Slave Trade.

rience, we occasionally find it otherwise—but individual exceptions are *nothing*. The greatest part of cows have only one head to their shoulders—though we, occasionally, find some with two: are we to ridicule the principle, that one head is enough for the objects of its existence, because we find, occasionally, some with two?—The first beings formed must have had all the characteristics of their species, both mental and bodily, in perfection; and every variation since, I would venture to call a deviation from the eternal principle, rather than a proof of its fallibility; and it is the purpose of art to restore Nature to that perfection, from which, from accidental causes, she is continually wandering.—*Niger* says, "no man can, without the greatest folly, presume to fix a standard, by which the works of the God of Nature can be pronounced correct or incorrect;" there I differ with him: every man has a right to investigate the works of Nature, and to try to discover the intentions of its Great Creator, and to ascertain what is accident, and what essence.

I am sorry to have trespassed so long on your patience, Mr. Examiner, or occupied so much of your paper; and I bear testimony with *pleasure* to your frankness in owning the mistakes of your first essay, and to your *candour* (tho' not to your temper) in admitting Letters that have so palpably differed with yourself.—I shall now leave negroes and their faculties to abler hands, and will hail, with delight, their first intellectual discovery that increases the limits of our knowledge.

AN ENGLISH STUDENT.

P. S. With all my respect for *Niger's* calmness, I must give him a bit of advice at parting: let him not in future describe things as fanciful that are the result of patient thought and investigation, unless he is sure such imputations cannot be turned on his own head. Did he see the excellent picture of the Black overpowering the Buffalo, or did he describe it from the Catalogue of the British Gallery? If he saw it, he should have looked at it *twice*, and he would have found that the artist had very *judiciously concealed* the countenance of "heroic expression" he talks of. This is the man who censures me for being *fanciful*, and yet describes things as *true* that have no existence but in his own brain.—As to Molineaux and Richmond, I again say, as I said to *Philanthropos* about Denon, and just above to *Niger*, *look twice*;—let him examine their legs, &c. &c.—As to prize fighting being a proof of intellect, page 566, *Examiner*, answers that. I have never asserted of negroes that they could not move their arms in every way from their shoulders, but of brutes, whose arms are tied to their bodies at their elbows; and that negroes in those parts silently, and certainly imperceptibly to those unaccustomed to examine forms, approached these characteristics of brutality, and palpably to all, in their legs and feet, and walk. Even the inhabitants of a country town lately ridiculed the *awkward* gait of Molineaux; and if *Niger* goes again to the Fives-court, he may see it without doubt himself. Richmond is famous for his awkward legs. With respect to John Bull's round face, I can assure *Mr. Niger* the English head is as oval and as elevated as the Grecian; but perhaps *Niger* took his notions of John Bull from the caricature shops. You philosophers see things *largely*, but so *largely*, I fear, as to see nothing *distinctly*.

(The Editor, not feeling the necessity of having the last