

which have been committed under its name, the happiness and well-being of nations depend. The French Revolution has produced a species of *reaction* by forcing opinions into a contrary current, and in consequence many have discovered an apostacy from the mild and gentle precepts of genuine liberty. In politics we have many like Jack, in the Tale of a Tub, who are resolved to rush into extremes, and be as unlike the rogue Peter as they can. Let us hope for more tranquil times, and a return of the good old wholesome attachment to the principles of liberty, no longer flaming like a meteor, but diffusing its steady and equal light over the nations.

“ Fond impious man, think’st thou yon
 sanguine cloud,
 “ Rais’d by thy breath, has quench’d the
 orb of day ?
 “ To-morrow he repairs the golden flood,
 “ And warms the nations with redoubled
 ray.” GRAY’S BARD.

You are right in declining to entangle yourselves in the rugged path of Theological controversy; there is a certain point in maintaining, or opposing opinions, beyond which it has been justly observed that all is dissonance and noise, but do not be too much afraid to admit free discussion into your work, on Theological, or other subjects, which may tend to promote the welfare of the country; under this head I would class temperate Essays on the subject of Tithes.

Let each party speak freely and modestly for themselves, and give them scope to do so, as long as they keep within the bounds of moderation and propriety. You are not the arbiters of opinions, but you are bound to keep the combatants who appear in your pages within the prescribed limits of gentleman-like and decorous language.

The French, under the old regime, boasted that they were in full possession of liberty, for they could write freely on any subject except religion and politics; if you interdict, indiscriminately, remarks on those subjects, there appears to me an abridgment of the liberty, of a *free press*. Truth is not afraid of discussion, for her brightness is more apparent, the more she is examined; while error, for obvious reasons, shrinks from enquiry. I hope

your Magazine will always be an asylum for liberal examination, in which persons holding various and opposite opinions, will be permitted to plead their cause, and so long as this continues to be the case, *and no longer*, I most heartily wish success to your undertaking.

C. K.

Postscript.....On some subjects it is presumed it may not be thought prudent to enter into a discussion; I think it should be established as a canon of criticism for the Belfast Monthly Magazine, that no article should be admitted unless a liberty will be granted for a reply. By this means only you can maintain a *free press* and preserve, uninjured, the rights of discussion. It would be ungenerous to publish arguments which delicacy or the temper of the times would prevent from being examined, and publicly canvassed. If such *privileg’d* opinions are true, they require no additional confirmation, if they are not, you lend your aid to continue the error without giving an opportunity for detection.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

MR. EDITOR,

I BEG leave to suggest the following hint to your readers, relative to an improvement which I am apt to think might with little expense be resorted to, in removing the disadvantages which uniformly attend the wind-mill, as its force is usually applied.

The wind-mill under the present circumstances, can never be used with a proper effect in cases where uniformity of motion is necessary, and of course, the benefit resulting from the currents in our atmosphere are considerably curtailed. It would be, I believe, a vain task to undertake the regulation of the motions of a machine, whose impetus depends upon a moving power of irregular velocity; I propose therefore to apply the power of the wind-mill, not *immediately*, but as a means of procuring a *well regulated impetus*, which can be applied to any kind of machinery where regularity of motion is required. My plan is to apply the power of the wind-mill to raising water to a certain height, by connecting it with a *forcing pump*; this water should

be conveyed into a reservoir, and by a convenient opening in the reservoir, conducted to the top of an over-shot wheel.

The reservoir must be so constructed as to contain only a certain quantity of water, by means of channels through which the redundant water may flow off.

The great advantages of this arrangement are:

First....The machine need never be idle, provided there be a sufficient quantity of wind to keep it in motion.

Second....A single cargo of water, consisting of twenty or thirty tons, is all that is necessary to supply the machinery, as the whole may be so constructed as that the water which flows over the wheel may be again conducted into the well intended for supplying the reservoir by means of the forcing pump.

Third....The variable velocity of the wind-mill cannot in any manner affect the equability of motion in the part of the machinery which is moved by the water, as *that* is always regulated by what are in themselves perfectly regular, viz. the weight of water in the reservoir (which is supposed to be at all times the same) and the impetus acquired by the water in falling through the passage from the reservoir to the top of the wheel.

In hopes that this hint may be of service, I remain your sincere well-wisher,

MECHANICUS.

Newry, July 13th, 1808.

Postscript.....Since writing the above I have been given to understand, that the idea of using the power of the wind *mediately* has been proposed to the public before this. I do not regret being deprived of the pleasure of having conceived, what I thought, an original idea; should the hint be taken up and pursued by an individual in the country, my principal object will be so far obtained.

To the Editor of the *Belfast Magazine*.

SIR,

FRANKLIN, in the energetic language of D'Alembert, "*snatched the thunder from the clouds.*" Perhaps the sentence may be considered as an excellent epitome of the philosophical character of that eminent genius. He

used his knowledge of the arcana of nature, as a means of depriving her of her destructive qualities, and extracting from her such practical rules as might advance human knowledge, or extend the limits of our comforts. This, indeed, is the true province of philosophical research, and I am positive, that he who enjoys the happy quality of making practical inferences from his knowledge, though of a limited kind, is much more serviceable, in a certain degree, to society, than he who is for ever soaring in the *high and rarefied* atmosphere of pure theory. I am much gratified therefore, in finding from your prospectus that you set a proper value on the *useful* part of philosophy; allow me to contribute my mite towards this department of your periodical work.

It has been demonstrated by Sir Isaac Newton, that the solid, which offers the *least resistance* in moving through an elastic medium, must partake somewhat of the shape of the cone, curved slightly in its outline. May not this be applied to the correction of the errors of the pendulum? It is pretty well ascertained that much of its incorrectness arises from the different degrees of elasticity, in the medium through which it moves; if then we substitute the *solid of the least resistance*, in place of the weight usually attached to the rod of the pendulum, it is but reasonable to conclude that much of the irregularity complained of will be done away. If we make the resistance which the pendulum offers to the atmosphere the *least possible*, the irregularities arising from this resistance, and the consequent re-action of the air, must also be the *least possible*.*

* The consideration of the irregularity of the pendulum, which proceeded from the different densities of the atmosphere put me on devising some mode of removing this serious defect. Perhaps enclosing the whole apparatus of the clock in an iron cylinder, air-tight, and then exhausting the cylinder of air, might be attended with some advantage in this respect; besides, that a clock protected thus from the atmosphere will never require cleaning, and the oil can never oxidate the metal. But this plan, it must be remarked, could not be adopted in