

ORIGINAL ESSAYS.

LEISURE MOMENTS.—No. 2.

Have you seen a man ungrateful to a friend? His heart must have been bound in his own breast by ignoble cords of selfishness. Perhaps the opportune pittance of charity had saved him from the gloomy bounds of penal walls, or rescued a family from the appalling necessity of invoking public munificence. And yet the modest claims of gratitude are denied. The tongue is restrained from the confession, and the hand withheld from discharging the obligation. Have you seen the man, and did you turn away with indignant abhorrence? Listen then to the words of the sage Ulpianus.

I have seen a youth grieve the heart of a father, and sully the cheeks of a mother. When nervous limbs reminded him that he was strong and capable of independence, his heart became hardened to the calls of filial piety, and impervious to emotions of gratitude. I have seen him turn fretfully away from the mildest entreaties of love, and stop his ears to the monitory voice of affection. I have seen him withhold his hand from administering to the comforts of a father, and refuse the ready consolation to a mother. I have seen him view parents touched with the rod of affliction, nor drop the lovely tear of sympathy, nor lock the countenance beaming full affection upon them. Yea, and I once did see him point the finger of scorn at a father bowed down by the weight of years, and laugh contempt at a mother on whom age had fixed infirmity. Then was I moved to cry against the wickedness of youth, and deplore the wrath of Heaven from his devoted head. I heard Jove's rattling artillery trembling in the troubled clouds, ready to burst endless ruin upon the ungrateful son. I heard Immortals evidencing to the seal of his woe, and infernal spirits growling horrid pleasure at his fall. Then hovered a bright Deity in the air, and spake as with the hollow voice of the tombs—"Prophaning mortal! scorning filial piety thou insultest heaven. The Gods expect mortals to reverence parents of earthly birth, and by this alone they observe filial piety to Deities. Great Jupiter acknowledges this duty on that altar alone. Thy days are at an end. Charon's boat is ready for thy disembodied spirit. Prophaning mortal, die!" At these words, fire broke forth from heaven, and blackening struck the culprit to the ground.

This was the fate of an ungrateful son. Modern Hophnis may take warning.

STYLUS.

THE FATE OF CONQUERORS.

Since the reign of Augustus, the world has seldom been so free from bloodshed as at the present moment. The Turks and Greeks in a small spot on the confines of Europe and Asia, are carrying on a petty warfare; but excepting in that quarter, Europe may be said to enjoy the most profound repose. All the great states, that in their turn have contended for the mastery, are at peace with one another, and most of them are free from internal broils. Asia, Africa, and America, with the exception of a few occasional skirmishes, seem to follow the example of Europe, which, indeed for ages has not only been the great theatre of war, but the original cause of most of those commotions that have devastated the world. At the present day, when the blessings of peace are so justly appreciated, one is astonished at the madness of the people in following ambitious leaders to war and death, ambition was so frequently the cause. History, "the great mistress of wisdom," points out two remarkable circumstances in their fate, which cannot fail to strike the most careless observer. Of all the mighty conquerors that have been praised by poets, admired by their followers, and adored for a moment by their countrymen—that have made babes fatherless, wives widows, and carried ruin and devastation in their train—how few have fallen in battle, and yet how few have come to a timely end! Perhaps not one in ten has died a natural death. They made themselves conspicuous for a time, they marked the age in which they lived, but they seemed to rise above the stream of time rather as beacons to deter, than as guides to be followed. Poison, assassination, or disappointed ambition commonly put an end to their dazzling career. Witness the fate of those who, in ancient times, were surmised the Great, and deemed the first warriors of their age. Cyrus the Great, after conquering Media, Lydia, and Assyria, had his head cut off by a woman, who threw it into a vessel filled with blood, and addressed it in these words, "Go quench there that thirst for blood, which seemed insatiable." Miltiades, who commanded the Athenians at Marathon, and was

reckoned the most celebrated general of his age, was accused of treason by the Athenians and condemned to death. The sentence was commuted for a fine, which he was unable to pay, and he died in prison. Pausanias, who conquered at Plataea, and slew about 300,000 Persians, was starved to death in the temple of Minerva, whither he had fled to save himself from the fury of his countrymen. Themistocles, who was called the most warlike and courageous of all the Greeks, who destroyed the formidable fleet of Xerxes at Salamis, and slew and drowned countless thousand of her Persians was banished by the capricious Athenians, delivered himself like Napoleon, into the hands of his former enemies, and died (by poison according to some) in exile. Epaminondas, the Theban, by his extraordinary talents raised himself to the first rank in the state, defeated the Lacedemonians at the battle of Leuctra, was afterward accused as a traitor, and about to be condemned to death when his countrymen pardoned him on account of his former services and placed him at the head of an army, where he was slain, in the forty-eighth year of his age.—Philip of Macedon who by his intrigues and arms conquered all the neighboring states, and finally destroyed the independence of Greece, at the battle of Cæsarea, was assassinated at the age of forty seven, when on the point of leading his victorious armies against the barbarians of the east. His son Alexander the great, who conquered Asia Minor, Egypt, Media, Syria, Persia, and deemed the world too small for his conquests, was prematurely cut off in his 32d year, at the instigation of general Antipater. Pyrrhus, the Epirot, declared by Hannibal the greatest of Captains, fell by the hand of a woman. Hannibal himself, the prince of Generals, after conquering Spain, and retaining possession of Italy for sixteen years against all the power of the Romans, was defeated by Scipio, at Zama, fled to Syria, thence to Bithynia, where he poisoned himself, to elude the sword of his enemies. Scipio, his conqueror, as famous for his virtues as a citizen as for his military qualities, was accused of extortion, and was obliged to flee from Rome. He died in exile at Liternum, in the forty-eighth year of his age, and left, as his dying request, that his bones might not be laid with those of his ungrateful countrymen. Mithridates, King of Pontus, who by his skill and bravery opposed the Roman power for thirty years, and was declared by his enemies a more powerful and indefatigable adversary than the great Hannibal, Pyrrhus, Perseus, or Antiochus, was doomed to death by his unnatural son, attempted to poison himself, and not succeeding, fell upon his sword. Antiochus was murdered by his followers in the temple of Belus, at Susiana. Perseus was carried captive to Rome, and died in prison. Scipio the younger, who wept over the ruins of Carthage, of which he had been the unwilling cause, was after the most astonishing victories, on the point of being made Dictator, when he was found dead in his bed, murdered at the instigation of his wife; and the triumvirs Carbo, Gracchus, and Flaccus, Cinna was assassinated by one of his own officers. Marius and Sylla, the most cruel of Roman Generals died their beds, but their deaths were hastened by excessive drinking, in which they indulged, to blunt the stings of a guilty conscience. For a time the triumvirs, Cæsar, Pompey and Crassus governed the world. Crassus was treacherously put to death by Surena. Pompey the Great, the friend of Cato, who conquered Mithridates, was defeated by Cæsar in the plains of Pharsalia, and assassinated by the command of Ptolemy, whom he had protected and placed on the throne. The fate of Cæsar himself is known. By his astonishing abilities he raised himself to the first rank as a General and an orator. After defeating all his enemies he triumphed in one day over five different nations, Gaul, Alexandria, Pontus, Africa, and Spain: he conquered three hundred nations, took eight hundred cities; slew a million of men, was created perpetual Dictator, and became master of the world. He generously forgave his bitterest enemies, and was assassinated by his most intimate friends in the fifty-sixth year of his age. Cicero was beheaded near Gaeta, and Cato stabbed himself in Utica. Brutus, Cassius, and Antony fell on their swords. Of the twelve Caesars, the successive masters of the world, nine suffered a violent death.

Similar instances might be produced in modern times to show how fortune sports with the destiny of mightiest men; but it will be sufficient to close this moral catalogue with the tragical end of two contemporaries, the greatest commanders, on their respective elements, that the world ever saw. Nelson, by his undaunted courage, his skill and perseverance, raised himself far above all his competitors, defeated every fleet that opposed him, and when at the summit of fame, and the last shot

fired at the enemy, died, at a premature age, of a wound which he had received in battle. Bonaparte, the hero of the age, commanded the most effective and powerful armies that ever went forth to battle, who made and unmade kings at his pleasure, was defeated at Waterloo, banished, and died on the bare rock of St. Helena. Old Diogenes, in his tub with a little sunshine, amusing himself with the foibles and frailties of the surrounding multitude, and quietly slipping into his grave at the patriarchal age of ninety six, had some reason to treat with contempt the vanity of the demi-god Alexander.

BOSTON, Dec. 31.—This day the venerable Master John Tileston enters the 92d year of his age, having entered at the North Writing School as an assistant to Master Hicks at the age of 14—here he acted as assistant, and afterwards as principal, until about six years since, which is during a period of seventy-two years, when, from his great age and infirmity, he was prevailed upon to retire, the town having from that day to this continued to him that well-earned support which it is no less the privilege than the duty of the city to bestow. His wife is still living in the enjoyment of good health at the age of 90.

THE REFORMER.

THE design of this work is to expose the clerical schemes and pompous undertakings of the present day, under pretence of promoting religion, and to show that they are irreconcileable with the spirit and principles of the Gospel. The great Missionary operations which commenced some years since, and the numerous Theological Seminaries which have been erecting in every part of our country, have been only an injury to true religion, and have tended to extirp an order of men to a height not warranted by the New Testament. Their numbers and influence are rapidly extending throughout all parts of the community, and threaten the destruction of our civil and religious liberties. By means, either direct or indirect, they are steadily advancing their cause, and their ascendancy over the minds of the people: and no distant period, should their influence continue to increase, scarcely an individual will be found willing to incur the hazard of opposing any of their schemes. The pernicious effects of clerical domination in this country, may be inferred from the history of other countries, and ought early to be guarded against. There are already few who have sufficient firmness to present these men before the public in their true colours—and hence the prospect of their success, and our danger is greatly increased.

From these considerations, and to expose the corrupt, pompous, and fashionable religion, mentioned and supported by this pensioned order of men, the REFORMER was commenced. The extended circulation of the work among the reflecting and better part of the community, has convinced the Editor that his views on these subjects are not peculiar, and that the publication may be more generally known, and consequently be more useful, he has been induced to present some notice of it in a more public way than was first done. Being neither under the jurisdiction nor influence of any particular sect the REFORMER will not be made an instrument for advancing the views or interests of any, but will rebuke evils wherever met with, and pursue the line of truth marked out by the precepts of Divine Revelation, regardless of the frowns or the censures of those, who, from interest, prejudice, or caprice, may become its opposers.

TERMS, &c.

THE REFORMER is published in periodical numbers of sixteen octavo pages, the first of each month at One dollar a year, payable in advance. The sixth year is now completed, and the seventh commenced January 1826. Some copies may yet be had from the beginning of the work, but persons are at liberty to commence at any period, and withdraw their subscription whenever notice is given and arrears are paid. Orders from any part of the Union, post paid, enclosing the amount of subscription, and directed to T. R. GATES, No. 290 North Third Street, Philadelphia, will be attended to without delay.

Those who procure ten subscribers and become responsible for the amount of their subscriptions, shall be entitled to a copy gratis.

THEOPHILUS R. GATES.

Philadelphia, January, 1826

Editor of papers, who will give this advertisement a few insertions, and forward a paper containing it to the Reformer—Philadelphia, shall receive the thanks of the Editor, and the numbers for one year.

JOSEPH P. PLUMMER,

HAS just received from Philadelphia, in addition to his former stock of Goods,

STRAW FLATS & GIPSY,

CRAP LEECE,

3-4 & 6-4 BLACK MODE,

Mangled Bengals, Bombazin & Bombezets,

A variety of Morocco SHOES & PUMPS,

Laventine & changeable sarsinet silks,

Large white and colored Casmere Shawls,

" black silk Hks.

Super blue Casinets & Broad cloth,

6-4 COTTON DIAPER,

White silk gloves and silk braid,

Lenoes, Cambries, & Buck muslin Hks.

GREEN SPECTACLES.

ALSO,

SADDLERY & CUTLERY.

ALL of which he offers on reasonable terms.

Richmond, 12th mo. 17, 1825.

JUST PUBLISHED,

And for sale at the office of the Public

Leger, by the gross, dozen, or single,

THE FRIENDS' ALMANAC,

FOR THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

1826;

Containing, besides the usual astronomical calculations, the times of holding the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings within the bounds of Philadelphia and Ohio Yearly Meetings, and the Quarterly, Monthly and Weekly Meetings within the bounds of the Indiana Yearly Meeting, and a variety of other useful matter.

Richmond, Sept. 17, 1825.