

not a sinner, but as a parent directs. Well! what dost thou mean? with what wouldst thou trust me?—speak boldly, if thy secret is fit to be intrusted to a virtuous breast.—I would ask, said the peasant, recollecting himself, whether what I have heard from the domestics is true, that the princess is missing from the castle?—What importeth to thee to know? replied Matilda. Thy first words bespeak a peasant and becoming gravity. Dost thou come hither to pry into the secrets of Manfred?—Athen. I have been mistaken in thee. Saying these words, she shut the casement hastily, without giving the young man time to reply. I had acted more wisely, said the princess to Bianca, with some sharpness, if I had let thee converse with this peasant; his impetuosity seems of a piece with thy own. It is not fit for me to argue with your highness, replied Bianca; but perhaps the questions I should have put to him, would have been more to the purpose, than those you have been pleased to ask him. Oh! no doubt, said Matilda; you are a very discreet personage, may I know what you would have asked him? A by-stander often sees more of the game than those that play, answered Bianca. Does your highness think, Madam, that his question about my Lady Isabella was the result of mere curiosity? No, no, Madam, there is more in it than you great folks are aware of. Lopez told me that all the servants believe this young fellow contrived my lady Isabella's escape—now, pray Madam observe—you and I both know that my Lady Isabella never much admired the young prince your brother.—Well! he is killed just in the critical minute—I see! A helmet falls from "your father's" ...

... and a few voices thought they heard a person sing but could not distinguish the words. This can be no evil spirit, said the princess in a low voice: it is undoubtedly one of the family—open the window, and we shall know the voice. I dare not indeed, Madam; said Bianca. Thou art a very fool, said Matilda opening the window gently herself. The noise the princess made was however heard by the person beneath, who stopped; and they concluded had heard the casement open. Is any body below? said the princess; if there is, speak. Yes; said an unknown voice. Who is it? said Matilda.—A stranger, replied the voice. What stranger? said she; and how didst thou come there at this unusual hour, when all the gates of the castle are locked?—I am not here willingly answered the voice—but pardon me, lady, if I have disturbed your rest: I knew not that I was overheard. Sleep had forsaken me: I left a restless couch, and came to waste the irksome hours with gazing on the fair approach of morning, impatient to be dismissed from this castle. Thy words and accents are of a melancholy cast: if thou art unhappy, I pity thee. If poverty afflicts thee, let me know it: I will mention thee to the princess, whose beneficent soul ever melts for the distressed; and she will relieve thee. I am indeed unhappy, said the stranger; and I know not what wealth is: but I do not complain of the lot which Heaven has cast for me: I am young and healthy, and am not ashamed of owing my support to myself—yet think me not proud, or that I disdain your generous efforts. I will remember you in my orisons, and will pray for blessings on your gracious self and your noble mistress—if I sigh, lady, it is for others, not for myself. Now I have it, Madam, said Bianca, whispering the princess. This is certainly the young peasant; and by my conscience he is in love—well! this is a charming adventure!—do, Madam, let us sift him. He does not know you, but takes you for one of my lady Hippolita's women. Art thou not ashamed, Bianca? said the princess: what right have we to pry into the secrets of this young man's heart? he seems virtuous and frank, and tells us he is unhappy: are those circumstances that authorize us to make a property of him? how are we entitled to his confidence?—Lord! Madam, how little you know of love! replied Bianca: why lovers have no pleasure equal to talking of their mistress. And would you have me become a peasant's confidante? said the princess. Well, then, let me talk to him; said Bianca: though I have the honor of being your highness's maid of honor, I was not always so great: besides, if love levels ranks, it raises them too; I have a respect for any young man in love. Peace! simpleton; said the princess.—Though he said he was unhappy, it does not follow that he must be in love. Think of all that has happened to-day, and tell me if there are no misfortunes but what love causes? Stranger, resumed the princess, if thy misfortunes have not been occasioned by thy own fault, and are within the compass of the princess Hippolita's power to redress, I will take upon me to answer that she will be thy protectress. When thou art dismissed from the castle, repair to thy father Jerome at the convent adjoining to the church of St. Nicholas, and make thy story known to him, as far as thou thinkest meet: he will not fail to inform the princess, who is the mother of all that want her assistance. Fare well! It is not seemly for me to hold farther converse with a man at this unawonted hour.—May the saints guard thee, gracious lady! replied the peasant—but, oh! if a poor and worthless stranger might presume to beg a minute's audience farther—am I so happy?—the casement is not shut—might I venture to ask—Speak quickly, said Matilda; the morning dawns apace: should the laborers come into the fields and perceive us—What wouldst thou ask?—I know not how—I know not if I dare—said the young stranger faltering—yet the humanity with which you have spoken to me emboldens—Lucky! dare I trust you?—Heaven! said Matilda,

involved in the proposal, it being one which requires only to be made, to gain numerous supporters. That it may meet not only your approbation, but that of all your subscribers, is the earnest wish of

Yours, with much esteem,

JAMES M. GARNETT.

To the Legislature of Virginia.

The petition of sundry citizens of Essex, respectively sheweth.

That having become thoroughly convinced of the daily increasing necessity for some change in our laws relative to enclosures, we have at last determined to apply to you, as our only hope, for some remedy of the existing evil. That this determination might not appear to have been made either hastily, or from considerations merely selfish, your petitioners beg leave to state the chief reasons which have induced them to adopt their present course.

In the first place, the law of which we complain is a palpable violation of all other laws relative to property, which principles is, to compel every one "so as to use his own, as not to injure that which belongs to another." But the law of enclosures actually permits us to injure others by means of our stock, unless they make a fence of a certain height to guard against those very injuries which justice demands that the perpetrators should be prohibited from committing under any circumstances. Instead of compelling stock owners

... to restrain their stock from depredating upon ... people's lands, which the above

cited to principle clearly enjoins, the land owners are forced to protect both its, and its

products at an enormous expense of extra fencing; or to suffer without the smallest compensation, all the losses they may incur from the want of this extra fencing.

In the second place, we complain of this law,—more ill will—and more lasting animosities between individuals, and often whole families, than any other law in our whole code; indeed, we believe it may be truly said, of more than all the others put together.

Lastly, it imposes upon every land owner and cultivator a far heavier tax than all his other taxes united; and what makes the matter worse is, that not a cent of it goes into the public treasury; but it is utterly wasted and lost, inasmuch as it consists in the extra labor which each has to bestow on his enclosures to protect their products from other people's stock. This legal oppression is greatly aggravated by the fact, that the small land owner, the small cultivator; in other words, the poor farmer, suffers much more in proportion to his property than the rich one; for having to fence it in, and daily to watch it so as to guard against every other person's stock, and being in general not so well provided, as richer land owners, with a proportionate quantity of labor, more of his precious time must generally be spent in making such enclosures as this most unjust and oppressive law prescribes, to say nothing of the time lost in repairing and supervising the whole. We may venture to say that this time, upon an average, amounts to two months in every year, and that it certainly could be abridged one month or more, thereby saving at least one-twelfth, or more, of the whole labor bestowed throughout the State, in the single business of fencing, if the law on this subject were exactly the reverse of what it is. Compel each person so to take care of his own stock as to prevent their injuring his neighbor's property, and not a cultivator of land in our whole community, whether he be proprietor or mere tenant, but would be thoroughly convinced in less than a year, of the immense advantages of the change. Indeed, we know no reflecting persons any where, with whom we have conversed on this subject, who do not admit the truth of the foregoing arguments.

Your Petitioners beg leave further to represent, that the circumstances of the country when this law was passed, having entirely changed, the law itself cannot now be justified, if it ever could be, even on the score of policy. We have no longer (at least in the tide water part of our state) extensive tracts of cultivated, unenclosed lands deemed of little or no immediate value to the proprietor; fencing materials are becoming comparatively very scarce, and thereby the actual expense of labor in collecting and applying them has been enormously enhanced, while the products of our impoverished fields can very ill sustain this most unnecessary deduction from their net proceeds; add to this, the opinion is daily gaining ground, that even uncultivated lands will much improve by excluding every kind of stock from them. All these circumstances combined, render legislative interference imperatively necessary, for the evils enumerated admit of no other remedy. They have prevailed so long indeed; as to give rise to notions in some parts of our country, relative to landed rights, which would reduce us nearly to a state of nature. These nations make all land, not actually cultivated in some crop, a species of common property for all who choose to turn their stock on; and this, whether they be under enclosure or not. Now, if our lands be really our property, it follows as a necessary consequence, that each land owner has an indisputable right to the exclusive possession as well as use of it, and a just claim to protection therein by the laws of his country. This is a universally admitted fact as to every species of property why not then in regard to land also? When we rest our horses to avoid wearing them out; when we lay aside our cloths for the same purpose, he who takes and uses either without our

knowledge or consent, may not only be proscribed and punished by law for such act, but incur the risk of being utterly disgraced by it, and of this committee, some Pobesierre is chairman. Power got by violence must be kept by terror. Imprisonment, confiscation and the guillotine succeed. The people are dismayed, sickened, exhausted;—and the first bold and ambitious soldier drives out the anarchists and terrorists, and finds what he calls his dynasty.

How long does this process take? The French Constitution, in the main well contrived, for a monarchical government, was adopted in 1791. Bonaparte was made first Consul in 1800. Nine years sufficed the French to pass from the possession of a Constitution, theoretically good, to an absolutely military despotism. The means were *anarchy and terror*. Bonaparte was a conqueror; but he did not, like Caesar, march his legions on the capital. There was a very striking exhibition of military force on the 13 Brumaire. But it was the mob and the reign of terror, which made popular government odious in France. They will make it so wherever they are introduced. The transition from the club to the sceptre is prompt and easy.

A Lunatic cured.—A wandering vagabond committed various depredations about the country under the pretence of derangement, and then often escaped his just deserts. He one day entered the house of a cooper who was cutting poles. Finding the woman of the house alone, he took her up and attempted to put her on the fire. She screamed and called her husband. He came with a pole in his hand, upon which the visitor died, but was hotly pursued and overtaken by the enraged husband, who began beating him with a pole. The fellow bellowed, "I am crazy!"—So am I," said the man, while his blows fell faster and heavier. It need not be added, that a complete cure was wrought upon the pretended lunatic.

THE AMERICAN NAME.—There is not a nation upon the earth, the citizens of which do not glory in the reputation of their country, and pride themselves upon the honorable standing and fair fame of their nation among other nations of the earth. An Englishman, a Frenchman or a Russian, will ever hold himself ready to spend his fortune or his blood for the honor of his country. So it was, too, with the heroes of '76—the glory of the American name was every thing to them, and the wretch who should have dared to insult the dignity of the Continental Congress, would have met the punishment he deserved.—But alas for these degenerate times! Who now ever hears from those in power the voice of patriotism, calling upon the American citizens to sustain the dignity and honor of the American name? Who, of the whole class of Van Burenites, vindicates the character of the American Congress, when the President of the United States, the Chief Magistrate of the nation, sworn protector of the honor and glory of the American name, boldly and fearlessly declares to our citizens and to the nations of Europe, that one branch of the government is "bribed by the Bank," and then through his servile official paper denounces again and again the Senate of the United States as "profligate and corrupt," How long would the citizens of the British Government allow King William to remain on his throne, should he dare to insult the dignity of either House of Parliament by declaring them "corrupt?" Who could restrain the fury of the French citizens, should Louis Philip dare tell the Chamber of Deputies of France that they were "bribed?" But here, in this land of constitutional liberty, every feeling of pride, every obligation of patriotism, is lost in the whirlwind of party. Ambition and avarice celebrate their unhallowed rites upon the very altar of Liberty, while the people, the legitimate defenders of the Constitution, tamely submit to the dictation of party leaders and masters—and that too while their father's blood cries from the ground, "my sons scorn to be slaves."

Vermont Republican.

The Mobile Register mentions, on the authority of private letters from Pensicola, that that city has been visited by an epidemic fever, which proved fatal in thirty-five cases, during the month of September. On the 13th inst. there were thirty cases of fever remaining, though no death had taken place on that day, and it was supposed that the disease was subsiding. Among the deaths we regret to announce that of Mrs. Bird Willis, wife of Col. Willis, Navy Agent at Pensicola,—a lady whose hospitality has made her generally known in Florida, and who was distinguished for the virtues and accomplishments which characterize and adorn a republican matron.

We learn by a gentleman from Fort Gibson, that Professor Beyrich, a celebrated Botanist, who was exploring this country under the patronage of one of the scientific societies of Paris, died recently at that post. Professor Beyrich had attached himself to the regiment of Dragoons and returned with them from their late expedition. His servant died within a day afterwards. The same gentleman also states, that in formation had been received of the appearance of Cholera among the Osages; and much sickness prevailed among the Cherokees, &c.

Nothing more clearly characterizes the different condition of the poor of England and America than the history of their criminal prosecution. There, the poor starved felons are convicted for stealing provisions, such as bags of flour, hampers of potatoes, butter, sheep, poultry, &c. Here, the thief pursues higher game in his depredations—jewelry, gold &c.

From the Farmer's Register.

PETITION FOR A CHANGE OF THE LAW OF ENCLOSURES.

[We recommend the subject of the following petition to all who have not already considered it maturely; and to those who are satisfied of the unjust and oppressive operation of the law of enclosures, that they will, forthwith proceed to act, for the removal of the grievance. Let similar petitions (either in this or any other form that may be preferred) be prepared and properly presented to the consideration of the agricultural community, and there can be but a small ground for fear as to the result.]

To the Editor of the Farmers' Register.

Essex, August 9th, 1834.

I now send you an article, which I hope will be in time for your next paper. It is a petition about to be circulated in this county, and I hope in many others, for changing the law relative to enclosures. No "internal improvement"—always excepting that in regard to the general education of the people, which is first and above all in importance, is so much wanted; nor any, I believe, to the great utility of which, if once carried into effect, converts would more rapidly be made. The people in the counties bordering on, and comprehending our mountains, may not yet, perhaps, have so generally felt the evils of this law as to wish for its repeal; and if that be the case, it might be suffered, in regard to them, to remain as it is; although I greatly mistake the condition of that part of our State between the head of navigation and the north-western limit of our highly improved valley country, if the people would not be nearly or quite as much benefitted as ourselves by the change. I would be among the last men in Virginia to advocate any alteration of a dubious policy, in a general policy law; or that did not, in fact, promise most manifestly, to benefit a very large majority of our fellow citizens. But in this case, there seems to me not a shadow of a doubt on any point in-