NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER,

AND

WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

Vol. IV. | WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. | No. DLXVI.

Five Dolls. Per ann. | WEDNESDAY, MAY 23d, 1804. | Paid in advance.

TO BE SOLD

AT public sale on Wednesday the 5th of June, at Montgomery courthouse, at Mr. Robb's Tavern, at 12 o'clock- a Tract of Land called DUNLAH—the property of R. Lee, esq. lying within 2 miles of the courthouse, containing 300 acres of valuable farming land.

Mr. William Clements, living near the premises will shew them to any person inclined to purchase. One third of the purchase money to be paid down, the remainder in 9 and 18 months—Also in George Town the next day, at Mr. M'Laughlin's Tavern at 12 o'clock, the following parcels of Land, two undivided fourth parts of Scotch Ordinary near George Town, containing in the whole 73 acres. One undivided fourth part of a Tract of Land called Mead's Swamp, containing 467 acres, near Piscataway.

Two undivided fourth parts of a Tract of Land called Beall's Reserve, near the latter Tract, containing 310 acres.

JAMES CLERKLEE.

May 16,—15Jun.

Public Sale.

BY virtue of a decree of the circuit court of the district of Columbia for the county of Washington sitting as a court of chancery, at the suit of William H Dorsey, Nicholas Hedges, George Craig and Adam Whann, against Agnes Jackson, executrix; William Jackson, executor; Jonathan Jackson, Matthew Jackson, Elizabeth Jackson and Susanna Jackson, infant heirs of Jonathan Jackson, deceased, defendants—Will be exposed at public auction to the highest bidder at the Union Tavern in George Town on Thursday the 7th day of June next, at 11 o'clock A. M. all the right, title, and interest of said Jonathan Jackson, deceased, to the following lots of ground in the city of Washington—the lots numbered 21 and 22 in square numbered 75, the lot numbered 2 in square numbered 164, and part of a lot numbered 14 in square numbered 75, which said part of a lot has now on it the ruins of a brick house, burned together with a house of Mr. Hodgson's then occupied as a War Office. And all the right, title and interest of the said J. Jackson to the following lots or parcels of ground in George Town, that lot of ground on the north of Causeway street, beginning on the north of said street at the distance of 23 feet westerly from the south west of Joseph Peck's house, and running thence westerly 26 feet and running back 125 feet —Also that lot of ground on Washington street adjoining to the south side of the house now occupied by Wm. A. Rind, fronting on said street 47 feet and running back 120 feet——and also that lot of ground on the north west corner of Congress and West streets of Beall's second addition to George Town fronting on each street 40 feet.

The terms of sale are one years credit from the day of sale, the purchaser or purchasers giving their bonds, with approved security for the purchase money, with interest thereon.

AGNES JACKSON, }
WILLIAM JACKSON, } trustees.

May 18—3tw

N. B. We hereby give notice to all persons having claims against the estate of the said Jonathan Jackson, deceased, either for debts due, or legacies bequeated, to bring them into court within three weeks after the above sale.

A. J.
W. J.

NOTICE.

A Legionary Court will sit on the 6th day of June next at 10 o'clock in the morning at Mr. Rhodes's Tavern in the city of Washington, for the purpose of laying fines on officers—hearing appeals, &c. &c. &c.

A punctual attendance of the members is earnestly requested.

By order of Lt. Col. D. C. Brent.
Wm. D. BEALL,
Adj. 1st L. M. D. C.

May 18—1aw6Jun

Valuable Land for Sale.

The executors of the last will and testament of Anthony Holmead deceased, will sell at private sale about forty acres of Land adjoining the city of Washington at the northern extremity of 20th street west. This land is generally allowed to be one of the handsomest situations near the city, having a beautiful prospect of nearly the whole of the city of Washington, Alexandria and George Town, and any person inclinable to purchase this valuable property, will be shewn the same, and know the terms by application to the subscriber near the premises.

JOHN HOLMEAD.

November 11—wtf

To be Sold,

At public sale, at Mr. John Barney's Columbian Inn, on the 10th day of September next, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

ALL the right, title, interest, and estate of Nicholas February (an insolvent debtor) in, and to fifteen and three quarter acres of land, with a dwelling house thereon, in the vicinity of George Town, also some household and kitchen furniture.—Terms of sale, the purchaser to give bond with approved security, payable in six months after the day of sale, any person wishing to view the property before the sale, may apply to the subscriber. In the above case, the creditors are requested to exhibit their claims within the time limited, to the subscriber.

CHARLES BEATTY, Trustee.

George-Town March 7

National Intelligencer.

THOUGHTS on the LIMITS to which the RIGHT of SUFFRAGE ought to be extended.

(*Continued.*)

The *equal interest* of all men in government having been by some writers denied, let us examine the arguments on which the denial rests, as this branch of the discussion is of radical importance. All are agreed that life and liberty are at least of equal value with property. But it is said that however valuable these possessions may be, they can only be secured by those who enjoy other qualifications than are inseparable from them, and that these qualifications consist in superior endowments of mind not to be found among the poorer classes of society. Hence the necessity of restricting political rights to men of information and liberal views. Men of other descriptions are affirmed to be incompetent to self government. But this is not all. They are not only unable to govern themselves; but their narrow minds, prejudices and interests render them dangerous rulers of a society which has undertaken to protect not only life and liberty, but property also. It is, therefore, contended, that they will sap the rights of property, and reduce the possessions of all to a level with their own.

This objection entirely turns upon the ignorance and imaginary interest of the lower class of the people. An unprejudiced view of the state of society in this country will demonstrate that neither the one nor the other exist. That man cannot be called ignorant who has sense enough to perform all the duties required of him. He is relatively as wise as Deity itself. Now the duty required of an American citizen, supposing the right of suffrage to be universal, is the discriminating selection of rulers. Here begins and ends his political duties so far as respects the principles in discussion. The only enquiry is, whether the American people, collectively taken are sufficiently enlightened to make a wise choice of their rulers, a choice not absolutely perfect, but as good as could be effected in any other way. It is necessary to observe that the discharge of this duty does not require that every citizen voting should make the best choice, but only that a majority of the citizens should concur in making it. Now, it is most evident that without being wise myself, I may be perfectly able to decide who are the wisest men in the community. This capacity unquestionably exists in a great majority of the American people. This arises from the peculiar state of society which allows every man time to reflect for himself, which calls the powers of his mind into constant and habitual exercise from the freedom of pursuit that our goverment guarantees, from the nature of a popular government that animates enquiry and diffuses information, and from that equality among the citizens that produces a promiscuous intercourse among all descriptions of citizens. From these united circumstances, it may be safely affirmed that the whole people of the United States are competent to choose their own rulers. Montesquieu, indeed, speaking of other states possessed of information infinitely less than that enjoyed by the American propeople, says, "The people are extremely well qualified for choosing those whom they are to entrust with part of their authority. They have only to be determined by things to which they cannot be strangers, and by facts that are obvious to sense."

Again—"Should we doubt of the people's natural capacity, in respect to the discernment of merit, we need only cast an eye on the series of surprising elections made by the Athenians and Romans; which no one surely will attribute to hazard."—

If such was the dispassionate conviction of a profound writer on government, who lived under a monarchy & was the apologist of its vices, may we not safely affirm that the unprejudiced judgment of a republican will lead him to the same deduction?

It is, indeed, the pride of a republican government that the elements of its existence have all that simplicity and energy that, in combination, ever produce the greatest effects and promise the longest duration to the works to which they are attached. What can be more simple than every citizen voting for his rulers once a year? What more energetic, than the expression of the national will through rulers thus chosen? The people are not called upon to make laws for themselves. They are only required to name those who are to make them. In this nomination, every citizen is not obliged to consult his own judgement, or be guided by his own limited information. He has, on the contrary, open to him, the opinions of the wisest men in the community. It is, from this consideration that, where the most extended right of suffrage exists, the wisest choice will always be made. All the information of the community will unite in the selection. Every species of knowledge will be combined. The rich and the poor, the powerful and the weak, the refinement of education, and the strong sense of uneducated genius, will form a common stock. Each description of citizens will advance their claims, and urge their pretensions. Public opinion will be enlightened, and thus a more discriminating choice be effected than could be accomplished in any other way. We may accordingly appeal to the whole experience of the world, and find that popular elections have uniformly educed from the mass of society the greatest talents. From this view we may safely infer that the people have sense enough to govern themselves through their rulers.

But we are told that an imaginary interest, the offspring of ignorance, will induce those who have little or no property to sap the rights of those who have considerable property and thus reduce the possessions of all to a level with their own.

Whatever force this argument may have in reference to the condition of the people under despotisms, monarchies, and aristocracies, it can have no correct application to that of a people under a republican government, much less can it apply to a people situated as the American people are. In the former instances, the acquisitions of property being, in general, the result of fraud or force, and being accompanied by the most humiliating depression and misery of the poor, from which they can never hope to be relieved by ordinary means, a sense of distinct and hostile interests will necessarily arise, and a desire however cloaked, universally prevail, to humble their proud oppressors, and tumble their lofty battlements in ruin. This is the tax which tyrants ever pay for the enjoyment of power and pleasure. Their continuance is insecure. Their subjects are a combustible volcano; and a single spark, thrown among them, may, in a moment, produce the widest conflagration. In such a state there is nothing fixed. There is no common interest that unites the members of the society to the government and to each other. As the prince acquired all he possesses by violence, so are his slaves ready, without scruple, on the fairest prospect of success, to use the same means that he so successfully employed. In such a case property must be insecure. The little security attached to it depends upon denying to the great body of the people the least participation in political power.

But the dilineation of our state of society has not one common feature with this picture. Here there is no power acquired by violence or fraud, and property is the fruit of industry. It is, moreover, widely diffused; and there is scarcely a citizen who does not enjoy a measure of it. Those, who are to day poor, may be rich to-morrow. There are no laws to repress industry or to encourage monopoly; on the contrary their enlightened policy, wherever it interposes, aids the one by disallowing the other. Every thing is consequently in a state of mutation. Neither riches or poverty are necessarily attached to any particular orders of men. The whole national wealth is a common stock, and in a state of unceasing distribution among the most industrious and intelligent members of society. In such a state of things, labour itself is as much property, as a freehold estate. He who possesses the capacity, by his own hands, of acquiring annually five hundred dollars, is as rich as the idle man who enjoys a clear estate in land of five hundred dollars a year. Can there, then, be any reason, for excluding the former from a participation in political rights, while the latter is admitted to a full enjoyment of them? Which is the most useful member of society; he who adds to its common stock by his labor, or he who diminishes that stock by his indolence and inactivity?

Nor is it possible for any other than a common interest to exist in such a state of society. What I expect to obtain to-morrow, I will be as solicitous of having protected by wise laws, as though I already held it. Hence those who are in a course of acquiring property by regular industry will be as strenuous defenders of the rights of property as those who hold it by hereditary tenure or from personal acquisition. Nay they will be more strenuous defenders of it. From principles, intimately interwoven in our natures, it is a fact that we entertain a higher value for *expected* than *acquired* possessions, and also for those possessions that are acquired by ourselves than for those that come to us from others.

From these considerations alone it is evident that property, so far from being injured by universal suffrage, would be secured by it. But there are other considerations of great weight, which merit a full developement of their effects, but which our present limits inhibit.

Such are the following:

1. Property is in its effects so subtle and efficacious that it is scarcely possible to prevent its having an ascendant influence. This influence constitutes it at once its own protectress, and gives it an empire in all the private transactions of life, and in all the public affairs of nations. Next to the vital air we breathe, it mingles itself with all the concerns of our lives. From the power connected with riches, mankind will ever be dazzled by them, and err rather by too excessive an admiration than by too great an hostility to them. Those who possess them will, therefore, inevitably find their way into every department of the government. The same remark applies to those possessed of great talents. Can there be a more forcible illustration of the truth of this than the remarks of Montesquieu.

"We know," says he, "that though the people of Rome assumed to themselves the right of raising plebeians to public offices, yet they never would exert this power; and though at Athens the magistrates were allowed, by the law of Aristides, to be elected from all the different classes of inhabitants, there never was a case, says Xenophon, that the common people petitioned for employments that could endanger either their security or glory."

The same effect has been conspicuously illustrated in our most important elections. Our three successive chief magistrates have been men of great talents, and either rich, or in independent circumstances.

2. Nothing can so endanger the rights of property as the impression that they are upheld by an interest distinct from the common interest. This will unavoidably excite a jealousy between the rich and the poor. The former will aim at oppressing the latter to abridge their power, and the latter will lose no opportunity of retaliating on their oppressors. To deny to the poor an equal participation in political rights will produce this impression. This has been the course of events in all countries where the rights of property have been invaded. The rich first oppressed the poor, who, when an opportunity offered, deprived their oppressors of the instruments of their oppression by an equal distribution of their possessions.

3. Where the right of suffrage is universal, there will be a general, not to say universal spirit of content with the government, the laws, and the state of things superinduced by them. Hence all those alarming convulsions and insurrections will be avoided which are the graves of property.

Having seen that the rights of property, so far from being endangered by universal suffrage, will derive additional security from it, let us reverse the picture, and enquire into the probable effects of a denial of it. This is a view of the subject, at least of equal importance with that just taken, as it is the happiness of all its citizens, and not of a part, that it is the duty of a republican government to secure.

(*To be concluded.*)

PUBLIC SALE.

By order of the Orphans court of Washington county in the district of Columbia will be sold to the highest binder on Saturday the second day of June next, at the late dwelling house of Richard Frazer deceased, at the hour of 11 o'clock in the forenoon of said day——The personal estate of said Richard Frazer deceased, consisting of negroes, store goods, household furniture, two lots on lease, on one of which lots is erected a two story frame house and other improvements, together with a variety of other articles.

The terms of sale are—For all sums not above 20 dollars, cash. For purchases above that amount a credit of 6 months—bond with good security to be given for payment with interest from the day of sale.

SAML. N. SMALLWOOD, admr.

Washington, May 18—3t

From the American Daily Advertiser.

Mr. Poulson,

The following excellent original paper on various important agricultural subjects, has already been published in various forms in the United States, and in Europe, and has deservedly excited very general attention.—As however some may not have yet seen it, and as the great truths it sets forth, are intimately connected with the farming interest, I request you will again give it insertion. The philosophical speculator into the theory of vegetation, cannot fail of being gratified by the developement of principles, which have unfortunately been too little attended to in this country, but the practical farmer will apply the important doctrines, to the preservation of the quality of his grain, and no longer give into the absurd notions, which have too generally prevailed among our agricultural citizens, respecting the inevitable deterioration of seed sown on the same ground, and the necessity of frequently renewing our seed from remote places.

Cooper's Point, 17th April, 1799.

Respected Friend,

Kind providence having placed me in a station of life which obliged me to procure a living by industry, and that principally in the agricultural line, it has caused me to be a strict observer of the works of nature, with respect to such parts of the vegetable creation as have come under my particular notice, and have been greatly embarrassed at the opinion very generally entertained by farmers and gardeners, that changing seeds, roots and plants to distant places, or different soils or climates, is beneficial to agriculture, not agreeing with my observations on practice. This induced me to make many experiments on that head, all of which, in more than forty years practice, have operated to prove to my satisfaction, that the above opinion is not well founded, and if so, must be extremely prejudicial to agriculture, as it turns the attention of the husbandman from what appears to me one great object, viz. that of selecting seeds and roots for planting or sowing, from such vegetables as come to the greatest perfection in the soil which he cultivates.

What induced me to make experiments on that head, was observing that all kinds of vegetables were continually varying in their growth, quality, production and time of maturity. This led me to believe that the great Author of nature, has so constructed that wonderful machine, if I may be allowed the expression, as to incline every kind of soil and climate to naturalize all kinds of vegetables, that it will produce at any rate, the better to suit them, if the agriculturists will do their part in selecting the most proper seed.

In support of which I will take the liberty of subjoining a few facts and experiments out of an inconceivable number which have all combined to prove the above to my satisfaction.

In, or about the year 1746, my father procured the seeds of the long warty squash, which have been kept on the farm ever since without changing, and are now far preferable to what they were at first. Our early peas were procured from London the spring before Braddock's defeat, and have been planted successively every season since on the place. They have not been changed and are now preferable to what they were when first obtained. The seed of our asparagus was procured from New-York, in the year 1752, since which time I have not planted a seed but what grew on my beds, and by selecting the seed, from the largest stalks I have improved it greatly.

A complaint is very general, that potatoes of every kind degenerate, at which I am not surprised, when the most proper means to produce that effect is constantly practised; to wit, using or selling the best, and planting the refuse; by which means almost the whole of those planted are the produce of plants the most degenerated. The consideration of which induced me to try an opposite method. Having often observed that some plants or vines produced potatoes larger, better shaped, and in greater abundance than others, without any apparent reason except the operation of nature, it induced me to save a quantity from such only for planting the ensuing season, and I was highly gratified in finding their production exceed that of others of the same kind, planted at the same time, and with every equal advantage, beyond my expectation, in size, shape, and quantity; this induced me to continue the practice, and I am