

by apprehensions of a future judgement. But while our minds are solemnized by such appearances, we should exclude anxious and superfluous fears. We must not imagine that the great ruler of nature delights in torturing his creatures, or that he has only wretched designs in such works of power. Instead of yielding to anxiety, we should habitate our minds to a firm trust in him, believing that his tender mercies are over all his works.

S E L F - M U R D E R .

BY its frequency of late, has become so alarming, that it seems loudly to call for the interposition of the legislature of the United States of America. For that the interplay of their authority, can be of mighty influence, in the prevention of this horrid, unnatural, and execrable practice, no one can doubt who has read the story of the female suicide of ancient Greece, who encouraged by the infatuation of ambition, threatened to threaten the destruction of the species, until by a wise act of civil government, it was ordered, that the body, of every female whatever, who, after passing the law, should make away with herself, should be dragged naked through the streets, which being once put in execution, appeared to be shameful and shocking, to the model, tender, and lovely sex, that it effectually put a stop to that most unmerciful, though a little before request and fashionable practice of killing themselves. Nay, I believe the edict itself, without being once executed, was sufficient.

Why therefore, may not the fixing a stigma by the sanction of law, deter the still more culpable males from such disparate, unmannerly, and unwarlike acts.

For if they were not as capable of shame, they are sensible of honor. And when once they are made acquainted, that self-murder is the most dishonorable, mean, and cowardly act they can possibly be guilty of, by having the base or execration of the empire entailed upon it, and expressed by exposing the naked dead body, ghastly with the wounds to its own hands, to hang in the nautical posture of its head downwards for forty days on a gibbet forty feet high, and that erected in the most public place in the country, where the last was perpetrated; and then leered by a sufficient guard for the limited time. There is no doubt I think, but that this is one fearful and shocking sight exhibited to public view, and so peculiarly distressing and indeed hurtful, besides to the friends and relations, merely as to their worldly interest, would have the desired effect on at least all who are not drowning lunatics or raving madmen, and think it is very observable that this unhappy class of people very frequently die natural deaths.

And that if ever they attempt to commit murder, it is commonly on the bodies of their best friends and relations; and therefore these are imposed to be no more accountable, as to the punishment of body or soul, for the extravagancies they commit, than are those persons for their words and actions, who are in the delirium of a fever, and for this reason they have ever been thought above the cognizance of law, any further than as it may prevent them from annoying or hurting others, for they generally seem to have no design upon themselves. But it nevertheless might be good policy to make an example also of these, in case of suicide.

For what mortal man, even under the severest blow of fortune, has utterly lost the power of reflection, could for a single moment hearken to the suggestions of the Devil, to put an unnatural period to his life, when once he thinks on what his tender and loving wife, fond children, affectionate relations, and sincere friends most feel, when they even hear, much more see the mangy and disfigured carcass of a husband, father, son, brother, and friend, thus exposed as a public spectacle of terror to alarm all others from following his fatal and dreadful example? — But alas how much more shocking would it appear to mortal eyes, could the wounded spirit, thus divorced from the natural body, be seen suffering the just vengeance of Almighty God for this last act, which leaves no space for repentance. The justice of this seeming punishment imposed by law on the dead body, which when alive acted this tragic and atrocious guilt, nobody I suppose, will dispute, and as few I hope will deny the right of every legislature to inflict it; for one follows the other: if then both these positions are allowed, why not immediately pass an act for that purpose, which alone can negatively or affirmatively determine its expediency.

For we well know that the driving of a sharp stake through the body when thrown into the grave, the denial of Christian sepulture, and the forfeiture of the estate, which by the law nevertheless always ceded to the petition of the heir, as of right it should be, unless we would punish the innocent for the crimes of the guilty, have not been sufficient to deter that gloomy race of mortals from having recourse to the instruments of death under any levell affliction; and who thus launch out into another world, weary of the plesaures or impatience under the pains of that to be carried they know not whether— who without understanding the value of life, or the true end of living, and that even a living dog is better than a dead lion, contemptuously throw back to God the present which he has given, as if what he the Author of every good gift had bestowed was a trifl not worth the keeping, or rather a curse which they had a grie, no share of when and how they pleased.

Not considering that God has joined soul and body together for wise, important, and glorious purposes, and therefore what he has joined together let no man, unauthorized by him, ever dare to put asunder. And that nothing can be more ridiculous, than there is any thing in magnanimity in self-murder. For what can argue a more weak pusillanimous, treacherous, and base temper of mind, than for a soldier fighting

for his all unconquerable and experienced commander, to defer the post allotted him, which he might have held, and go over to the enemy? Unless it be his conduct, who fighting under the banners of the Lord of Hosts against the world, the flesh, and the Devil, does by a wilful and deliberate act of suicide, abandon the station he was ordered to keep until he should be called off, and flies over to the Devil, the enemy of souls, to better his condition.

In short to commit self-murder, is an absolute defiance, or a desperate disbelief of God's Providence. It is to disown ourselves from this state of probation before God thinks fit to dismiss us: It is in effect to tell him, we will not patiently endure the chastisements, which he wisely inflict.

How much more noble was the conduct of Darius, who finding himself betrayed, and that he was either to be murdered by his own subjects, or delivered into the hands of Alexander, would not however be his own executioner.

I had rather, says he, die by another's guilt than my own. As also that of Job, who is reckoned as the most afflicted of any man that ever lived upon earth. When calamities, a dire misfortune succeeded one after another, his very wife, whom least of all fit became dead him like another desperado, to put a violent end to his life. For which he very sharply reproved her, and then makes this moral and just reflection, by way of interrogation. Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? And what reparation, equity, and heroism, when stripped of every thing, does he discover when he says, — Naked came I into the world, and naked shall I return: The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away: Blessed be the name of the Lord. And thus at last, with a patient and unconquerable spirit, says— All my appointed time I will wait, till my change come.

A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD.—

LONDON, April 3.

EXTRACT of a letter from Portsmouth, April 1.

"ABOUT three o'clock this afternoon, on a signal made from the Royal William, a general yell took place here. There being a considerable number of soldiers and other coasting-vessels in the harbor, near three hundred prime seamen were picked up in a few hours, principally North-countrymen. An outward bound West-Indianman, in St. Helen's Road, had all his hands taken out.

"Every thing here now wears the face of approaching hostilities; and however unequal the intrepid arm of Russia may be to hold a contest with Great Britain and her powerful allies, the will will not be easily induced to recede from her views respecting Turkey.

Lord Millgrave is to have the command of the Levenian, and his lordship is daily expected here to communicate her.

"This day fell from hence for Blackfriars the Battleship sloop of 16 guns commanded by the hon. Captain Joseph Sidney York. After taking in her powder and guns she is to proceed to sea; but it is not known at present where defined.

A great quantity of foreign lace in a heavy and a mourning coach, was flogged by some custom-house officers on Monday night near Jew-street, and which had been followed by the officers nearly all the way from Chatham.

The number of prisoners now in Newgate is 45; viz. 134 for trial, 23 capital convicts, 10 during his majesty's pleasure, 41 transports, & under orders of imprisonment for certain stated periods, one for hard labor improving the navigation of the river Thames, three bankrupts for non answering to the satisfaction of the commissioners, and 197 debtors.

Last week Mr. John Jones, tallow-chandler, in Wrexham, lost his life in a most singular manner; it happened, as his journeymen were in a state of intoxication, he was obliged himself to make some candlestick right off before the fair, and waiting for a proper place to set the tallow, he unfortunately fell asleep, when his great flock took fire; it is supposed by the candles; he awoke miserably surrounded by flames, and ran in great cry in the most pitiable distress for help; after every assistance (both present and professional) the next day he expired in the greatest agonies.

EXTRACT from Mr. Fox's SPEECH on the foregoing MESSAGE.

"IN the present instance, (he said,) he could see no possible relief for plunging the nation into fresh difficulties, and therefore he would oppose, in the very utmost of his power, a measure that was pregnant with mischief, and which threatened to involve the nation in a war, expensive and bloody as it was impolitic and unjust.

He said he saw no reason for warlike preparations at this present moment; for the gentleman (Mr. Fox) had wrapped himself up in the most impenetrable obscurity. He came down to the House to request that they would express their readines to grant supplies to his Majesty, and that they would consent to an augmentation of his force; but his purpose those forces were to be applied, on why the gates of the empire should again open, and the public force, already exhausted by continual war, should be quelled again; he had not designed to inform the representatives of the nation, it would appear that the British Minister had claimed that privilege of inactivity, which the Roman Pontiff seemed disposed to resign. I will drain your purse, says the Minister—I will open your veins, and your blood shall flow, in every quarter of the globe; but why the public treasury is exhausted, or why the nation is involved in the flames afar, or drenched in streams of blood, it is not the business of the nation to enquire. Put your trust in me, for I am infallible—let your faith in me be unlimited; and you shall see by what mighty mercies I shall lead you through those seas of trouble, those quick sands of perdition, into which I have thought proper to conduct you.

The emperor of Morocco has withdrawn his army from before Ceuta; the Spaniards are therefore done more in quiet possession.

Recent intelligence from Tunis confirms the account of a general insurrection in Savoy and that Piedmont has followed the example.

Written by letters from Africa, that the Regencies of Tripoli, and Tepoli, having engaged to give the Grand Signor all the assistance in their power, mean-

are, and render the British name formidable to all Europe. At this rate, said Mr. Fox, we shall be obliged to arm ourselves every three or four months. It is but a few months ago that we heard out an armament to subdue the Spaniards; we are now to arm in order to subdue the Empire of Russia; and by and by we shall be told that it is necessary to render ourselves terrible to the Emperor of Germany, and then perhaps the Minifter may find it expedient to bully the Grand Cham of Tartary, and to subdue into a fit of the ague the Emperor of China and Japan.

This absurd ostentation of our strength, he was afraid, however, would not tend so much to make us respected, as to render us ridiculous in the eyes of the world; and he very much feared, let by God, that our force in this irrational and vicious system of conquest, we should exhaust the resources of the State; and that we should at length, feel that we have unburdened the fangs of the national arm at a time when real dangers approached, and the most pressing necessities of war should call upon us for vigorous defence, and more than ordinary exertions."

APRIL 8.

The fears conceived by many well-wishers to the honor, dignity, and prosperity of Great Britain, that Spain will take an advantage of the sister country, should the happen to be embroiled in a war with Russia, may be considered as entirely groundless. The contention with the Russians, will, at most, engage about six and thirty sail of the line, and frigates; and England has, independent of this number, a fleet more than sufficient to cope with the haughty Dutch, and even if France should send her feeble aid, the Dutch would be able to afford such effectual assistance, that render Britain equal, if not superior, to the whole power of the house of Bonaparte. There is, however, every probability to suppose, that the court of Madrid has no intention of entering into hostilities with these countries, upon any account whatsoever.

DUBLIN, April 17.

Poor Ireland must not trade beyond the Cape of Good-hope. She toils under the taxation, while her god-father commands the wealth of the world. Where is it written in the book of nature, that our commerce is limited—Are we not a nation high in the estimation of independence? do we mock ourselves? alas we have it little more than in idea?

The Americans improved on the British Constitution; they are not the happiest people in the world, rising from dependence into opulence and responsibility. All classes are united and happy. How powerful will the revolution of a century render them under such a government!

to be at peace with all their enemies in the Mediterranean. A great number of vessels have sailed from the ports of Africa with corn and coffee for Constantinople, destined for the Algerines there, who are in great want of those articles.

LIVERPOOL, March 28.

DEADWOOD SHIPWRECK.

The sloop Betty and Mary, Captain lace, London, with pigs for this port, left Newry on Tuesday last, about four o'clock in the following afternoon, the vessel grounded upon the north bank, and was left a dry jetty without any apprehensions of danger by the crew or passengers; but as the tide of flood came on, the wind rose high, and about two o'clock, when the vessel began to float, she thumped so very hard, that in about three quarters of an hour she went to pieces, and the whole of the people on board, forty-seven in number, viz. the master, four seafarers, four females and thirty-eight male passengers (one only excepted) unfortunately were drowned; the person whose life is saved is named John Boyd, belonging to the first battalion of the artillery, who luckily caught hold of a part of the wreck from which he was taken the next day at one o'clock. Eleven of the sufferers have been taken up, and decently interred.

Some persons who were exposed to the flood were much hurt, and the terror of those who were under cover made very great, as by the violent wind, and incessant rattling of the hull, for so long a time, their houses appeared in danger of such damage, but no imperilled locality.

Instances of this nature, against which there is no protection, shew the farmers how dependent they are for their succor on the government of Divine Providence—and should teach them to value the property they obtain through many hazards, as well as by toil and labor, the means of doing good, and of real enjoyment, and not profutely waste it on superfluities or hurtful extravagances, which do as certainly, and most perniciously destroy it as the storms of hail and rain.—Such as suffer by these inundations, also are to consider, that they are like other calamities of life, not to be repaired by giving way to complaints of Providence, or a desponding distrust of mind, but by an active diligence and industry, which has the promise of success.

LANSINGBURGH, May 27.

Three females of the religious sect denominated Methodists, not a few days since at one of their houses on Willow's street, in the town of Cambridge, in presence of relatives of respect paid to the funeral obsequies of this great man. Dr. Kippis delivered a dissertation on the merits of the deceased, which are common to those enveloped in ignorance and uneducated superstition. A young man who lives in the same house, and who had occasionally been on a little time, on his return found things differently disposed of than common. On his entering they tendered him the Bible, on which he made take an oath of secrecy in what they were about to do; this, it seems he found meant to evade, and defraud him with on the benefits of Purification, in which they had made form previously fitting. The first step taken by them, in the presence of the young man was the purifying the house, which was apparently full of evil spirits; for this purpose the chimney was filled with straw that might be done with fire; they rolled it out of doors, and likewise made pure; they rolled it some clothes the better to undergo the ceremony, through which themselves had put, and immersed it several times. Water only requires they stripped off their clothes, and ran into a trough full by where they dancing, wallowing, their inquiries. An infant of three weeks old, (to whom one of these infatuated beings was mother) must likewise be made pure; they rolled it some doge, and then passed it through the ceremony, through which themselves had put, and immersed it several times.

It is remarkable that to much humanity was exercised in this instance; for in three days preparation for the great work, it was denied lack, and instead thereof was fed with lye of ashes, which they termed falling. Thus far we are warranted to assert, partly from the veracity of the young man, who was also eye witness of the greater part of the ceremony.

If Ireland be an independent kingdom, she should engage in no war by which she cannot be benefited. She is therefore to consider whether this war is likely to be beneficial.

You will receive advantage, says the chancellor of the exchequer or the lord lieutenant's secretary, from the general welfare of the empire. If the parliament of Ireland should not think so, they should not consent to engage in it. If the war be likely to benefit the Empire—the attention of the minister should be more minutely examined. Will Ireland participate in the general welfare of the Empire?

That the general welfare has hitherto been undervalued to mean the wealth and power of England, enabling her to hold the balance between the powers of Europe, or to exert strong domination over those that bow to the British sceptre. Has Ireland hitherto acquired such from general prosperity? If she has the minister's position should be affected to, and the war engaged in. If not, there will be some reason to doubt the expediency of it, and some other arguments will be necessary to show its propriety.

It is likewise understood, by the informants that in some of the ceremonies of that day, they affirmed the characters of the Sacred Trinity: this, though not fully established may be thought probable, other parts of their impious conduct.

PHILADELPHIA, June 15.

On Monday last, an indigent tradesman of Southwicks (Sixth street) took four of his children to Kensington for the benefit of bathing. But neither the father nor children could swim, and they impudently ventured a little to far from the shore: the young child was with difficulty fished by the fathers, casting hold of its hair; another suffered to drown by struggling, that it was then thrown into a fit of sickness, and another, a fine stout boy of ten years old, was drowned in the fight of his distressed parent. The body was taken up in less than a quarter of an hour; and some gentlemen of the faculty immediately attended to administer every necessary relief—but all their efforts proved ineffectual.

The late Rev. Mr. Wetley, during the last 10 years of his ministry, is upon the most moderate calculation, supposed to have preached upwards of 35,000 sermons, and in that time, is supposed to have travelled 160,000 miles.

N. B. W. L. O. N. D. O. N., June 16.

On Saturday, a son of Mr. James Young, of this City for year old, went into the river, with some other boys, for the purpose of bathing, and was drowned. Mr. Young had been regularly employed in his children's out of fix, he has lost three, two of them drowned, and one by being scalded.

BOSTON, June 23.

W. R. N. E. W. S.

BY accounts from Antigua, via. Virginia, dated 2d May, we learn, That a packet arrived there, in 16 days from Kalmouth, and brought the important intelligence of WAR having been DECLARED by GREAT-BRITAIN against RUSSIA.

LAST CHANCE.

As the present annual & monthly Lotteries will complete the £1,000,000, ordered to be raised by a lottery, we hear, the clatter now filled, will be the last offered to the public.

Extract of a letter from New-Scotia, to a gentleman in Connecticut, May 14.

"A very extraordinary and shocking murder was perpetrated a few days ago at Lunenburg, a village near this place:—two brothers broke into a neighbour's house, and with the peal and song, killed the man, his wife, and maid-servant. The man was godfather to one of the young men: The murderers were soon taken

and brought to this place, where they confided the whole, and said they did it for the sake of money. They were immediately tried, condemned, and sent directly back to be executed at the place where the murders were committed."

STOCKBRIDGE, June 14.

In the storm of the 30th, accompanied with thunder and lightning—a tree not far distant from Collier's William's, in West Stockbridge, was struck near the top by the lightning, which ran down the boughs of the tree, to the ground, then under the surface, to a brook five rods distant, and killed about one hundred and fifty small fish, and one eel of considerable size, which were found floating the next morning near the place.

NORTHAMPTON, June 19.

The friends of the new French constitution, in Massachusetts, in a letter to the National Assembly, offering their services to repel the invasions of the libertines of France, mention the following anecdote:

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