

423: Ship Nancy, — guns, sent into Britol, R. I. by the Yorktown; of New-York. From her size and armament, the Nancy was taken for the Essex frigate.

Of Foreigners.

In page 100, of the present volume of the REGISTER, we offered a few passing remarks "on foreigners," and promised a continuation. We attempted to account for the very illiberal treatment that Mr. Gallatin had received on his appointment of envoy extraordinary to the court of St. Petersburg, in conjunction with Mr. Bayard; and to point out the source of our prejudices against him as a Frenchman, though a native of Geneva; and, at the time of his emigration, much further removed from the influence of France, than many of our native citizens appear to be separated from the interests of Britain. In no part of Europe were the principles of civil and religious liberty better understood, or more freely discussed, than at Geneva; and the spirit of the government of that little republic was more different from the despotism of France, than our institutions are from those of Great Britain. But the citizens of Geneva spoke the French language and partook of the French physiognomy. We are so much like the British, in both, that they have seized at least 10,000 of us for their own slaves by "mistake," as their friends in the United States do say—yet, for this resemblance, shall we all be regarded as Englishmen? Heaven forbid!—though, indeed, the conduct of many may justify the conclusion that we are not quite a separate people. It is plead in behalf of the man-stealing British, that as soon as they ascertain the birth-place of an impressed seaman to have been in the United States, they will let him go. Why do not those who have so great charity for the enemy, spare a little of it for Mr. Gallatin? It is not pretended that he was born in France, or in the dominions of France; and yet these folks call him a Frenchman; and to the mention of his name always attach the supposition of his being influenced by France. If this principle were just, it would be right for the enemies of England to treat us as Englishmen, at all times and upon all occasions; as well as for England, herself, to man her ships with our seamen, though certain that their nativity was not in her dominions—for, unfortunately, we resemble her subjects much more than the citizens of Geneva resembled the citizens of France. A moment's reflection on this may shew the base prejudices prevailing in the United States—I call them base; for they have their origin in that horrid policy that teaches the subjects of one nation to consider the subjects of another as "natural enemies," in immediate opposition to the great and living precepts of the Christian religion, about which their rulers and pensioned priests prate so much.

These prejudices, I am happy to say, are chiefly imported. They reach us in many shapes, and steal upon the mind in a thousand different ways. Books, conversation and the servility of commerce, are favorite mediums. We begin to have school books of our own—the intercourse will be lessened by the progress of our domestic manufactures; and we hope soon to see the day when Englishmen and Frenchmen will be regarded by the American people with equal indifference—"ENEMIES IN WAR—IN PEACE, FRIENDS."

It was not for the purpose of defending Mr. Gallatin on the charge of being a foreigner, or a Frenchman, that we took up this subject. He is not a favorite; and, if he were, we should not feel authorized to devote so much of this work to a personal matter: but, as his name has been used with our re-

marks, it is proper to add, that he was born in Geneva in 1761; emigrated to the United States, and landed at Boston in 1780, being then only nineteen years old; has lived among us ever since, and filled, with great ability, the most important stations in the legislative and executive departments of government, save one, that could be bestowed upon him, for nearly twenty years past:—and to express our belief, that he will faithfully perform all that is expected of him, in his present responsible station. If he does err, he will err on the side of peace; and I will not be surprized if the fact shall appear, that Mr. Bayard assumes a higher ground than he. Indeed I believe this will be the case. I shall be much mistaken in the character of Mr. Bayard (with which I think myself pretty well acquainted) if he ever puts his hand to a paper that shall not contain a clear renunciation of all the practices we complain of on the part of the enemy.

But let us resume the subject of "foreigners"—and consider the matter a little further, that we may see "whom we should fear."

It is stated in a way that excites our belief, not only from the fact as stated, but from years of personal observation and remark, that nearly one-third of the persons in Boston and New-York engaged in the import of dry goods, are Englishmen, British agents, or more or less concerned in British houses. In Philadelphia the number is very considerable. In Baltimore they are scarce, though we are honored with several of them; who, with a full share of influence, have used it freely. In Norfolk and Charleston, and in all other places where British goods are imported, we find this description of persons, powerful and persevering, "pulling together," and having great weight upon the public mind. We may discover them, as it were, in the vaults of our banks, dispensing accommodations to one and denying them to another, and see them in all the monied institutions—mixing in every concern with the same freedom as natives. The Scotch and Irish remain distinct from the body of the people; but the English soon throw off their provincial dialects, and differ but little from ourselves in their manners and habits.—Their names are also like our own, and do not mark them as foreigners. On the contrary, a native of Georgia, (whose father, we believe, was also born in this country) lately appointed to a high command in the armies of the United States, has been held up as evidence of prevailing "French influence" in the executive, because his name may be a French one. We allude to that gentleman, scholar, and patriot called in certain Boston papers "the French general FLOUNCEY."

Benedict Arnold began—William Cobbett revived, and British agents continue, this clamor. Their numbers and unity of design give them more influence over the press than most persons imagine; and other presses follow the lead so given, through party. Hence hundreds of honest men believe what they hear so unblushingly repeated, though as opposite to truth as the poles. Interest is the leading star of the greater part of the trading world, whether venders of news-papers or broadcloths—and through their advertisements the agents can as easily make the printers subservient to them, as in any other way.—The force of this observation will be clearly understood when it is known that advertisements are the cream of the news-paper establishments, and that every news-paper in the United States, made profitable by advertisements, on the sea-board, is arrayed against the government, three only excepted, one of which is "neutral."

Again—let those who have the opportunity, examine the conduct of the French and English emi-

grants settled in the United States. The different spirit that influences them may partly arise from the different natures of the governments under which they have lived; but chiefly because the former are always treated as, and feel themselves to be, strangers; and, while the French are the most retired and peaceable of all our citizens, the English are the most intrusive and overbearing. The French rarely go to the polls—the English are always there. The political character of the one people is unknown to their next neighbors, for they do not meddle in the party squabbles of the times, content with the asylum afforded—but the other are among our loudest declaimers; and ninety nine times in a hundred opposed, not to the present administration only, but to our system of government itself. If it happens that a Frenchman forms an exception to this general rule, every body marks him; and he becomes a target for Englishmen themselves to shoot at. These are plain and palpable facts; which every man may ascertain for himself, if he will take the trouble to search after truth. They are also demonstrated in a late celebrated report to be found in the REGISTER, which gives great eclat to the only naturalized Frenchman in Baltimore that is a politician, that I know of; and the only one I ever saw at the polls (at a Sheriff's election excepted)—for his participation in a political mob; but takes no notice of at least two Englishmen that were as active as he. I presume the learned committee were not informed of this matter, though furnished with reams of testimony on the thing investigated—and herein we observe the facility with which they mingle with the people, soon losing the name and outward character of "foreigners," which Frenchmen never do.

We close this subject by an extract from Mellish's travels, vol. I. p. 211, which, we think, will strike the reader with great force—and a paragraph from Mr. Cheves' eloquent speech on the new army bill—

"Having, in the course of my travels, heard a great many conflicting opinions about British influence and French influence, and federalism and democracy, and the supposed enmity of the American government to Britain and British trade; and of a partiality for the French and Bonaparte; I determined to take no share in the argument, but to hear all the evidence on both sides, as it came in my way, and to judge for myself.

"The result of this judgment I shall now communicate.

"I was satisfied, from all that I had seen and heard, that there is a bona fide British influence in the country, of a very powerful nature, great in extent, and arising from very obvious causes. The principal of these are the identity of language, similitude of manners and habits, and the extensive commerce between the United States and Britain. To prove the influence arising from these, it is unnecessary to go beyond my own person. I landed in America a stranger. I travelled through the country, associating freely with the people. I was uniformly received as a friend. I waited on the chief magistrate of America altogether in an unpremeditated manner. I sent up my address as "a native of Britain." His conduct and conversation have been faithfully recorded in the preceding chapter, and the public can judge of it. Did it look like prejudice against Britain or British people?—I say no.

"In regard to French influence, it stands upon a footing exactly the reverse. The natives of France have a different language, and different manners and habits. When they arrive in this country, they have a language to learn; they never can learn to speak it with the fluency of a native; and they have few ideas in common, so that there is really little whereon

to ground a free interchange of sentiments and of friendship. Accordingly it is found, that the French natives in the country are generally a quiet, peaceable people, who associate mostly among themselves, and pay little or no attention to politics, or to public concerns. I cannot illustrate this subject better than by a quotation from M. Talleyrand. He had travelled extensively in the United States, and had paid very close attention to the manners of the people. He closes a series of observations with this sentiment: "In all my travels through the country, I never saw an Englishman that was not treated as a native; I never saw a Frenchman that was not treated as a stranger."

Mr. Cheves observes—

"But gentlemen say, that their great aversion to this war arises from the danger of French alliance. Is it possible? Do we want the armies of France, or if we did, could they reach our shores? Do we want her navy? Has she any that dare venture to sea? Where can she aid us? Where can we unite? There is an astonishing similarity in the history of free governments. The Athenians were afraid to resist Philip, because it would involve them in an alliance with the great king. It was alleged that he was a barbarian and the common enemy of all free states. But, said their great orator—"For my part, when I find a man apprehending danger from a person who resides in Susa or Ecbatana, and yet speaking in another strain of one who is at your gates, who is extending his conquests in the very heart of Greece, the plunderer of the Greeks, I am astonished, and regard that man, whoever he is, as dangerous, who does not see danger in Philip." So I must regard the councils of that man, whoever he is, who, fearing French alliance, would submit to British aggression. "Submission to Britain now would prepare us for submission to France hereafter. The way to prepare to resist the alarming power of France should we be assailed by it, is now to resist Great Britain, and raise up in the minds of our citizens a spirit that will fearlessly contend against injury and injustice, come from whatsoever quarter it may. But, sir, it is idle—it is worse than idle to talk of the danger of French alliance."

York—Upper Canada.

The following account of York, the seat of government in Upper Canada, is extracted from travels in Canada by George Heriot, Esq. deputy postmaster general in British North America. The work appears to have been written in 1806, being published in London in a large quarto volume in 1807.

York has had the most rapid growth and improvement of any town in Canada—and now contains more than 3000 inhabitants, and many stately buildings.

"York, or Toronto, is placed in forty-three degrees and thirty-five minutes of north latitude, near the bottom of a harbor of the same name. A long and narrow peninsula, distinguished by the appellation of Gibraltar Point, forms and embraces this harbor, securing it from the storms of the lake, and rendering it the safest of any around the coast of that sea of fresh waters. Stores and block-houses are constructed near the extremity of this point. A spot called the garrison stands on a bank of the main land, opposite to the point, and consists only of a wooden block-house, and some small cottages of the same materials, little superior to temporary huts. The house in which the lieutenant-governor resides is likewise formed of wood, in the figure of a half square, of one story in height, with galleries