

A. The request of the Lyceum, we publish the following Essay, read before that body on its day evening last.

THE VANITY OF AN EAGER PURSUIT AFTER WEALTH.

There is nothing more common, and scarcely things more irrational than an excessive desire for wealth. This propensity is perhaps some what natural; but its great encouragement arises from a false notion of values, and from the excessive respect which is often paid to a silly and thoughtless multitude.

It is natural for the human mind to seek some object upon which to bestow its affections; and about which it can engage in its employment; and if it be not guided by some power or beyond itself, it will most likely fall in with the current of opinions and feelings which surround it; and the early adoption of those erroneous impressions and false prejudices which we thus imbibes fastens them so firmly to the affections that in old age it is almost like severing soul and body to tear the heart from the ties that so early and so constant attachment. Every one who is to any extent acquainted with human nature, or who has been observant of the force of fears, must know the power of first impressions on the mind.

The facilities which wealth affords for the gratification of vanity are powerful incentives to its acquisition; and in some instances may be the chief or only strong motive for exertion to obtain it; but in a great majority of mankind there appears to be an inherent love for the superfluous things of the world; a desire not founded on any necessity, but which, as it does not seem to be productive of much utility, The Creator has impressed upon our nature a law which requires us to pursue the means of self preservation and impels us to seek happiness; but our habits, our education, and a heedless indulgence in the gratifications of vanity have unconsciously influenced us to pervert and to consume that law; and we are, under these influences, impelled to a degree of exertions by no means warranted by such law, nor justified by any necessity or genuine utility.

The passion for wealth like most other passions grows and strengthens in proportion as it is indulged, though unlike some others it can never be satisfied. The first grasp may be humble in its dimensions, but every succeeding effort will be increased in proportion to the extent already gained, until at length all the dominions of earth and sea are too narrow a domain for its insatiable thirst.

The power of wealth also increases with the passion itself until its combined influence is too great for most men to overcome. And hence we see in extreme old age men whose judgments have been convinced of the folly of laboring to amass what is impossible for them to enjoy, and who have become deeply impressed with the necessity of turning their attention to higher and nobler objects, and who plainly see the utter impossibility of seeing God and manum at the same time, yet in moments when this passion gets the better of their reason and recollection, like the sow, returns to their wallowing in the mire.

Our opinions of our worldly necessities have no fixed standard, and they are ever fluctuating according to extrinsic circumstances, or are guided by false notions of utility or necessity. Hence the best judgment should be exercised in order to keep our desires within proper bounds, and to enable us to know how far it is proper to indulge those passions given, it is evident, for vain purposes; but which if suffered to run waste and uncontrolled, will sink the soul to misery and ruin.

It is one could be placed in a position above this earth, and had an eye capable of taking in the whole globe, and possessing the power of penetrating into the hearts of the busy, bustling multitude that throng its surface, what a spectacle would be presented! Millions of human beings intensely engaged with anxious and often perplexing emotions depicted in their faces. Some hurrying to and fro as if chased by destiny or impelled by the severest pressure of necessity. Others setting plodding out long and intricate calculations, and with the utmost anxiety counting the balance of fortune in their favor. And every here and there behold one pining over the loss of a few dollars and cents with a grief equal to that of other men who are mourning and could the specter fully perceive the motives that impel to such conduct, he might be ready to conclude that man was made for no other purpose than to live a score or two years merely in order to show his skill in amazing deeds of matter that could be him no other benefit than to bear testimony of his infidelity; and that could be of no other use to him than to perplex him in the means of preserving it. Were he to reason on the hypothesis, that mankind were among the part designed that he could certainly come to no other conclusion than to signify some cases out of every hundred reasonings.

By the anxiety of the philosopher and the politician, the world is presented in a very uninteresting aspect. Instead of being regarded as a great field of brotherhood, united in friendship, and engaged in rational and worthy pursuits, he sees them engaged in a vain and unprofitable struggle, and in attempts at outwitting and over-

coming each other in matters of bargain for property, or unprofitably scrambling for places or power. He has the mortification to find beings designed and endowed with the faculty of reason, and with intellectual powers to the lowest and meanest purposes, and all for the sake of becoming rich! He that acquires riches by such means is poor indeed. To the philosopher there may scarcely be presented a more pitiable or more contemptible object in the world than the man of business, whose heart is seized to every emotion that is not touched by the gonging of gold, or excited by the hope of emolument. A being in whose bosom is not to be found a single virtue the exercise of which would cost him a fourpence, nor indeed any kind of loss of honor, from the loss of a shirt, and all the light of charity and benevolence, and who is wholly destitute of all fellow-feeling. Upon whose brow sits perpetually the dark unclouding care; and whose whole life is devoted to an increase of his coffers, and who has never known the pleasure of any other labor than the shrive of Mammon.

Can there be any thing in human conduct more superlatively ridiculous than the attempt to procure happiness by the acquisition of wealth; and yet how eagerly do the world press forward in this path to their objects? Happiness is the grand end of every rational being. But in the pursuit of this great end the world is sadly blinded. None however seem to have the light so completely excluded from their eyes as he who seeks it through the blind channel of wealth. He first fancies it to exist on the small mound whose elevation is the result of his own industry. He sets about to gain the top; but when he has there beheld the Goddess has flown, and she is now seen perched on the distant hills. The devotee, imagining that he shall not again be deceived, sets off at full speed in the direction his fancy or his misapprehension has directed him. With renewed vigor and increased exertion he presses towards the eminence on which he hopes to find his object. He examines closely every avenue that may lead towards his destination. He rises early and travels late, and takes the bread of carefulness. He eagerly looks around him and endeavors to embrace his idol. But lo! She has again disappeared!—and now his fancy is directed to the summit of a distant mountain, where he is certain he beholds with a more clear and satisfactory vision the very object of his wish. With renewed energy and increased exertion he again sets out on his journey. The hope of certain success now reanimates him, and for a time gives a relish to all his toil and labor. Each succeeding day brings him nearer the third point in his pilgrimage, and each morning finds him more firm in his resolution. No persuasion can induce him to fall on the way. No coach of care can invite him to repose at night. All the choirs of the forest singers; all the variegated beauties of nature that lay spread before him cannot arrest his notice, or for a moment divert his attention from the summit of his mountain. Onward! onward! is his motto; and he would not stoop to see him and understand his motive, that he was pushing for life or death.

Again he reaches another destination. But alas! again the Goddess recedes to a still more distant and more elevated pinnacle. Not yet convinced of the fallacious appearance, which has thrice deceived him, he presses on with undiminished vigor in pursuit of the shy deity. Day after day, month after month and year after year pass off, and we still find this foolish votary laboring and toiling in his weary journey, but evidently no nearer the object of his wishes than when he first set out. And thus he toils on, till he has reached the journey of life; and at last, he would think himself by the discovery, he finds his idol has vanished to the clouds. With anguish he looks back upon the road he has traversed, and the scales being removed now from his eyes, he beholds the immense absurdity of his course. He remembers the many calls of mercy and benevolence made upon him by fellow beings in distress which he neglected because attention to them might delay his progress in the journey he had undertaken. He recollects the many warnings of his error given him from the counsels of wisdom; he remembers the would have pointed out to him different and rational means of attaining his end, and he now bitterly chides himself for turning a deaf ear to their counsel. He now sees that the whole tenor of his actions was a sacrifice to the vain and foolish efforts—Compunction and remorse, he professes in his latter waters upon his soul, and in the last moments of his existence he is forced to exclaim—'Oh vanity of vanities! All wish to me is vanity and vexation of spirit!'

He who ardently labors through a long course of years to accumulate stores of wealth, in the execution of his moral and religious duties, may well differ and be right, when he reflects upon his course, that his has been the vanity of vanities. What rational enjoyments can any one promise himself from the possession of substantial property, and then we will yield the case.

But it is a question always to be settled with the votaries of wealth, what particu-

lar quantum of property will be a sufficient. We hear them say, certainly no man will pretend that less than such and such a sum would be sufficient for a reasonably liberal man; and the sum thus fixed by the great majority is enough for any man rational individual.

We may say, in the name of common sense, what rational ground of belief is to be found that wealth can secure happiness? Does not all experience go to prove the fallaciousness of this doctrine? Let any man look upon the whole line of the observation, and say if he can see or remember a single instance where a votary of Mammon displayed the least sign of happiness. I am not to be understood as saying that no one who is wealthy can be happy; but I am to be understood as saying most emphatically that wealth is not an impossible degree necessary to procure happiness.

Well what real advantages then can riches afford? It may be replied that they afford us the means of gratifying our desires by ministering to our pride, our vanity and our fancied wants; and that this is the answer we hear on most of the occasions when applied to most instances of their possession.

There is truth but one good reason why one should desire wealth; and that of all reason in the world is the last and least thought of. Those who desire wealth for the sake of luxury, benevolence, or generosity are the only persons who have any business with it. But alas, how few such are to be found.

The pursuit of wealth is more than any other employment calculated to estrange the mind from a course of virtuous and philosophical study; and nothing so much dries up the heart, and renders it callous to those noble feelings and fine moral sensibilities which form excellent safeguards to the encroachments of vice, nothing tends more to blunt our best feelings, and to prevent their rising to noble or generous groups after them.

I do not however condemn all efforts to obtain riches. It is only that excessive desire to obtain them which is so commonly to prevail with mankind, generally, in the present day, that most, and in some cases all, moral and social duties, are overlooked in the eager search and rapacious grasp after them.

It is an error too common that parents conceive it their duty to provide fortunes for their children; and this is with some a pretext for their lators to get wealth. I will agree that some provision is often advantageous to children; but my own observation has fully convinced me that planning fortunes in the hands of young persons has done more to cause and to perpetuate their ruin than any other two things put together. We have all known many parents who would rather lay up a store of dollars and cents for their offspring than to bestow the more rational and useful education. Can there be any thing more foolish? And it will be found too, that the vast of such parents are actuated much more by a love of money than they are prevented from acting by any want of impression of the importance of education.

Upon the whole, when we examine the conduct of men generally, and find the secret springs of their actions—when we fully understand the influence which the passion I have spoken of has upon their conduct, we must feel sensibly the truth of the remark in holy writ, that "the love of riches is the root of all evil."

The Philadelphia United States Gazette of Friday last contains an interesting correspondence between Jacob Snyder jr. Esq. of that city and the Hon Henry Clay, on the subject of the culture of the beet root for the purpose of making sugar. Snyder has, in connexion with several other gentlemen, been for some years employed in obtaining information on this interesting topic with a view to the introduction of the manufacture into the United States, and has been eminently successful in procuring proofs of the great advantages to be derived from such a measure. His conviction is that, without any aid from government, the product of beet sugar arising from individual enterprise will within the present age be more than sufficient to meet the demand for home consumption. Among other interesting facts stated, Mr. Snyder alleges that during the last year, France produced eighty millions of pounds of beet root sugar, more by one third than the Louisiana crop of the same period, and that the yield of good granulated sugar from this root has been ascertained to be eleven per cent, while in France the return is an average of six, and never more than eight per cent. The writer has not been satisfied with his own experience that so much as eleven per cent is produced, but is certain that eight per cent of good sugar for refining is to be obtained from the root referred to, in the United States.

In his answer to the letter of which the above is a hasty abstract, Mr. Clay expresses the opinion, derived from observation and personal experience, that the climate and soil of the United States are better adapted to the growth of the root than those of France. He is in favor of the establishment of the manufacture of beet sugar in this country, and is in favor of the liberal patronage of the government. Owing however to the diversity of opinion which exists in reference to the propriety of the general government on this head, he recommends that application

be made to the State governments. He says that he entertains no doubt of the ultimate introduction of the manufacture either with or without the aid of the general government, as the experience of France has correctly stated, that if the process of making sugar from beets is less costly than that from the cane.

The letter of Mr. Clay is short but highly satisfactory, and concludes with the following beautiful remark:

Ought we not to admire and to be profoundly penetrated with gratitude for the Presidential care which, at a moment when from various causes, the supply of this necessary article is likely to prove inadequate to consumption, upon a new and boundless source, assuring the poor as well as the rich, in all times, and in all countries, of an indispensable article of subsistence.—Balt. Am.

THE WHIG.

FLEMINGSBURG, KY.

Friday, February 17, 1837.

Wanted at this office immediately a Journeyman Printer, who can constant employment and liberal wages will be given.

On Tuesday last, the stable of Mr. L. W. Andrews was entirely consumed by fire. But for the timely arrival and exertion of the citizens, his large and commodious dwelling together with other out buildings would have shared a like fate.

Another—About 12 o'clock on Wednesday night we were aroused from our slumbers by the cries of Fire! Fire! and the ringing of bells. The fire originated in the frame blacksmith shop of Mr. A. Rock on south Main Street, and was occasioned by hot ashes and cinders which had been thrown among some coal on the hearth, a piece of unpardonable negligence,—and which although timely extinguished by the exertions of the citizens, would have produced the most disastrous consequences, if it had not been providentially discovered when it was. A shed and a number of small buildings adjoined the shop and closely surrounded as the buildings are with others of a combustible nature, it is impossible to tell what would have been the extent of the desolation, if the fire had not been so promptly subdued.

The report of the majority of the committee appointed by the Legislature to examine into the condition and business concerns of the Banks at Louisville, will be found on the first page of to-day's paper. The majority come to the conclusion, "that the Banks are solvent, and under a judicious management, and are every way worthy of the public confidence."

In assuming to pay to the United States Bank \$1,100,000 for the debts due that institution, the minority think that the Bank of Kentucky stands obnoxious to that part of the statute which provides that "the Bank shall not, directly nor indirectly deal or trade in any thing except loaning money, and exchange, or gold and silver bullion."

The report of the minority will be published in our next, and then, our readers having heard "both sides," will be enabled to judge for themselves of the correctness or incorrectness of the charges preferred against these institutions.

We learn from Frankfort, that on Friday last, the bill to raise the salaries of the Judges prospectively, passed the House, and now only awaits the signature of the governor to become a law.

THE SOUTHERN LITERARY MESSENGER. The attention of the friends of literature is called to this valuable periodical, the January number of which has been received at this office. It is published by T. W. White, Richmond Virginia, at Five dollars per annum. Its typography is elegant, and its contents which are nearly all original, are from the pens of some of the best writers in this country.

CONGRESS. In Senate—Thursday, Jan. 2, 1837. The Hon. Wm. A. Macon elected a Senator to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Judge Porter, appeared today and took the oath and his seat. Mr. Clay presented the memorial of British authors, praying for a law to secure the copyright right to works of British authors. The memorial was after some conversation in which Messrs. Preston, Grundy, Clay, and Buchanan took part, referred to a select committee consisting of Mr. Clay, Mr. Preston, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Webster, and Mr. Ewing. Ohio. Mr. Kent presented the preamble and resolutions

of the Maryland Legislature, complaining of the degraded condition of the Tobacco Trade, and praying the government to endeavor by legislation to obtain from Foreign Powers a reduction of the duties on tobacco, &c. The Senate proceeded to consider the bill to prevent the sales of the public lands except to actual settlers, &c. The question pending being on the motion of Mr. Moore to limit the prices of land which have been more than ten and less than fifteen years in market to one dollar, and those which have been more than fifteen years in market to seventy-five cents per acre; no more than one hundred and sixty acres to be sold to any one person, or to any other person than actual settlers. Mr. Mason called for the yeas and nays, which were ordered, and the question being taken it was decided to the negative—Yeas 17, nays 25.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The hour for the consideration of motions having expired, the motion of Mr. Bell for leave to introduce his bill to secure the freedom of elections was past over.

The bill making appropriations for the general expenses of the Indian Department, &c. was read a third time and passed; also, the bill for the support of the army for the year 1837.

IN SENATE—Monday February 5. Petitions were presented on the subject of abolition, and in each case the motion of reception, after considerable discussion, was laid on the table.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. A message was received from the Senate with a joint resolution passed by that body, appointing Wednesday next for the counting of the votes for President and Vice President, &c. Mr. Thomas moved that the House confer in the joint resolution of the Senate. After a few remarks from Mr. Thomas and Mr. Creery, the joint resolutions were concurred in.

The House resumed the consideration of the motion of Mr. Adams to reconsider the vote by which the memorial from Kentucky praying aid from Congress in behalf of the Colonization Society, was referred to the committee on foreign relations. The motion after some conversation was laid on the table.

Mr. Lawrence presented a memorial from the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Boston, praying the establishment of a National Bank in the City of New York: referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Remonstrances were presented against the enactment of the Tariff Bill reported from the Committee of Ways and Means in the House.

Mr. Cushing presented petitions from 828 females praying the abolition of slavery. He had also to beg pardon of the gentleman from New Hampshire, Mr. Cushman, who represented the District in New Hampshire adjoining to his, for appearing in any way, to interfere with his concerns. He did not know that the ladies of New Hampshire had any general objection to the "Preston Question" [the cognomen of Mr. Cushman] but, on this occasion they had honored him (Mr. Cushing) with their preference, so far as to make him their organ in the communications to this House. Mr. Cushman here rose and taking off his hat, made a profound bow to Mr. Cushing. Mr. Cushing then presented seven and twenty abolition petitions, all from ladies resident in the district in New Hampshire which is represented by Mr. Cushman. Mr. Adams rose and commenced the presentation of a very huge pile of abolition petitions—some of which, he informed the House, were probably of a spurious character, sent to him for the purpose of rendering him ridiculous and absurd before the public. Mr. Adams kept the floor, as usual, nearly the whole day. After many petitions had been presented, Mr. Adams presented a petition from ladies of Fredericksburg, Virginia, against the domestic slave trade. Mr. Adams rose and said he had a petition from 28 persons who declared themselves to be slaves.

He wished to know, by the decision of the Chair, whether it came under the rule of the House directing certain petitions to be laid on the table. He should rather the petition till the question was decided. Mr. Lewis said it was in the power of the House to grant this attempt to present a petition from slaves to this House. If it was not in our power we had better go home. (Several members here cried out, that the member from Massachusetts ought to be instantly expelled from the House.) Mr. Alfred said the moment the petition was presented and came within the reach of the House he should move that it be taken from the floor and burnt. He called on Southern members to support him in this course. If this state of things was to be tolerated, the Union would not last long. Mr. Patton rose to remark that a petition presented by Mr. Adams, this morning from Fredericksburg, Va. was genuine. He had examined it free himself to be so; but it was signed by the mother of the most infamous

villain. Mr. Thompson, of South Carolina, rose to ask the member from Massachusetts, whether he would bring his name within a resolution of a personal character which he held in his hand—a resolution expelling Mr. Adams from the House.) After some further discussion the House adjourned.

Mexico.—The New York Courier has Vera Cruz advices to the 11th January, and city of Mexico to the 23rd December.

The soldiers which have reached us from New Orleans, stating that the government of Mexico had given orders for the arrest of Santa Anna as soon as he appeared in any part of Mexico, are assuredly incorrect. The files of papers before us make no allusion to any such order, on the contrary, they still speak of him in terms of the highest attachment and respect, and the account of his release by the United States through of Vera Cruz, appears to have given general satisfaction.

Not so the New Orleans statements of the enthusiasm with which Bustamante was received on his arrival in Mexico, corroborated by the accounts brought by the vessel. The newspapers say little on the subject, and some individuals who were in Vera Cruz at the time he arrived there, assure us that it did not produce any extraordinary sensation.

Gen. Bravo had for a third time thrown up the command of the expeditionary army against Texas, and announced his positive intention not in any contingency to resume it.

A new constitution adopted by Congress was proclaimed in the city of Mexico. It was not the one that was expected, but no doubt in favor of a consolidated basis of government.

A Conducta with \$300,000 arrived from the city of Mexico at Vera Cruz on the 9th January.—Balt. Amer.

In the House of Representatives last week, a bill was reported granting a pension to Benjamin Gunnett, widower of Deborah Gunnett, a soldier of the Revolution. The Committee's report states the following singular particulars in relation to the case.

The maiden name of Deborah Gunnett, a soldier of the Revolution, was Deborah Sampson. She was born in Sharon, Massachusetts, and entered the Army under the name of "Robert Shurtlett." She served three years till the close of war, when she was honorably discharged. She was at the capture of Lord Cornwallis, at York. She was in many engagements where she behaved with great gallantry, and was twice wounded, which was badly wounded by a musket ball, which was never extracted, and the effects of which she felt through life. Her sex was never divulged nor discovered, while she was in the service. The motive, which prompted her to do so, did not distinctly appear, but is supposed to have been enthusiasm in the cause of independence. She drew a pension from the government till the year eighteen hundred and twenty-seven, when she died. She was married to Mr. Gunnett, in the year 1784. He is represented to be a poor but honest and respectable man, and now far advanced in years. He expended, from time to time, a considerable sum of money, on accounts of the services of his wife, which was much embittered by the effects of her wounds, and the great hardships she had endured. The committee, therefore, reported a bill continuing to him his wife's pension, from the time of her death.

Parricide.—An intemperate wretch, who was also insane, by the name of John Taylor, residing at Red Bank, New Jersey, killed his own mother and a hired man (an Englishman) on the night of the 25th ult. The murderer is in jail at Middletown.

Piracy.—Capt. Chandler of the schooner HERRICK, arrived this morning from Haiti, reports that a number of pirates had been taken on board an American vessel along the coasts of that Island. They had murdered and believed that the crews had in several instances been murdered. A number of American vessels, that ought to have arrived at various ports in the West Indies, were missing, and it was feared that the crews had fallen into the ferocious buccanneries. The general impression was that the piratical vessels were two schooners manned by blacks, and one commanded by a black, the other by a mulatto, or dark complexioned Spaniard.

Great Dispatch.—The Pioneer which conveys Santa Anna to Mexico was taken ready, and at sea in the grey shell space of twenty-four hours.

Morals Atrocious and Punishment.—The Monitor Algerien, relates a horrid affair which took place a few years since in the city of Morocco. One of the officers of a meat broiled in oil, to whom the Moorish name of Kheila, employed the most new method of supplying his customers:

"By offering some money he drew into the most remote part of his house some of these unfortunate women whose object in entering the infernal retreat was of a very different nature. When there, these unhappy beings were seated on the floor, and out into fragments which were prepared and ready for sale in the butcher's stall. Eight women had disappeared. At last his own wife having conceived some suspicions, which were satisfied at the Palace, went and there beheld the atrocious conduct of her husband. She was not slow the butcher was seized, nailed to his own counter, and four negroes armed with pieces of iron, were commanded to cut him to bits, until he had been reduced to a few shreds. The butcher's wife was then thrown as a vest boiling chamber, and was thrown as food to hundreds of the quarters of the city.

