

THE
ANTI-JACOBIN
Review and Magazine;

Sc. Sc. Sc.

For MARCH, 1800.

Ut in vitâ, sic in studiis pulcherrimum existimo, severitatem comitatemque miscere. *Plin. Epist.*

ORIGINAL CRITICISM.

ART. I. *T. Lucretii Cari De rerum Naturâ Libros Sex, ad exemplarium MSS. fidem recensitos, longe emendatioribus reddidit, commentarius perpetuis illustravit, indicibus instruxit; et cum animadversionibus Ricardi Bentleyi, non ante vulgatis, aliorum subinde miscuit Gilbertus Wakefield, A. B. Collegii Jesu apud Cantabrigienses olim Socius. Londini, impensis Editoris, Typis. A. Hamilton. 3 Vols. 4to. Pp. 1320. On Superfine Imperial Paper, 21l. Small Paper, 5l. 5s. Boards.*

THOUGH the ancients have neither given us rules for the composition of the Didactic Poem, nor formally attempted to appreciate its merit; yet we perceive, from a few casual observations which have been transmitted to us, that they entertained no very exalted opinion of this species of poetry, and indeed, that they were unwilling to recognize it among the genuine productions of the Muse. From Aristotle's idea of "the Versifier speaking in his own person," we may conceive his disinclination to adjudge the laurel wreath to a Didactic writer: and, whilst Plutarch refuses to admit Empedocles, Parmenides, Nicander, and Theognis, among the poets, because they composed mere metrical discourses, and invented or created nothing, we may suppose him a severe censor of all

that case it would have been necessary to advise them to be content *without their wages*. The violence against which he cautions them, is evidently, all cruelty, wanton severity, and lawless violence, to which their occupation as Soldiers did not necessarily lead them.—Christ said of a Centurion, or a commander of a hundred men, ‘Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no not in Israel.’* And the household of Cornelius, who was also a Centurion, were the first Gentiles to whom the Gospel was preached, after the resurrection of Christ. Of Cornelius, it is said, that ‘he was a devout man, and one that feared God, and that his prayers and his alms had come up as a memorial before God.’ And one of his household servants is called, ‘a devout soldier’ an epithet which cannot be conjoined with any unlawful calling or wicked character, as a devout robber, or a devout murderer! While Peter preached the Gospel to these Soldiers, and to the rest of the household of Cornelius, “the Holy Spirit fell on all them who heard the Word, and they spake with tongues, and magnified God, and were baptized.”†

Of the author’s vindication of some dissenting congregations, who have been charged with disloyalty, it is impossible to speak with such respect as of his sermons. On the *pastoral admonition* by the late General Assembly of the Church of Scotland we cannot at present lay our hands; but if we be not greatly deceived by the fallaciousness of our memories, no dissenters are, in that discourse, charged with disloyalty, but those who send missionaries through the country to collect the multitude by *beat of drum*, and to excite in their breasts a *hatred and contempt of their parish Ministers*. Such conduct as this, surely, Mr. Braidwood does not approve, however much he may dislike the Constitution of the Church of Scotland, or the alliance of *any Church* with the *State*. We must likewise put him in mind, that when he petulantly called the attention of his readers to the persecuting spirit of the Presbyterians of the last Century, he called it likewise to the enormities of his own predecessors the *Anti-pædo-baptists* of Germany, from the year 1525 to 1634; and that, if the members of any sect or society be answerable for the crimes of their predecessors, he has mortally wounded himself by the blow aimed at his adversary.

* Matth. viii. 10.

† Acts x.

ART. X. *A concise Selection of the Divine Excellencies of Revelation: with a Word of Advice for the Reformation of the Reformer Thomas Paine. To which are added, a Prescription for every Evil; and a Plan for the Reconciliation of all contending Powers.* 8vo. Pp. 32. Price 6d. Longman.

THIS little Essay might have been entitled, “Expostulations with Thomas Paine.” “I have not read (says the author) your writings, either on politics or religion. It may be, you stumble at the word of God, on account of the sins and infirmities of good men therein recorded. But surely, Sir, nothing can be a greater proof of its authenticity. For had they been written by artful and

deliberate

designing men, they would have spoken of them as preachers do of their departed friends in funeral sermons: they would have set forth all their excellencies in the most conspicuous light, and have kept their failings and folly behind the curtain." It is not probable, that Thomas Paine will pay any great deference to a person who addresses him without having read any part of his writings, either on politics or religion.

The style is such as becomes the subject, but we are not much charmed with the expression at p. 24, "*innumerable numbers!*"

P O L I T I C S.

ART. XI. *Congress at Rastadt. Official Correspondence between his Excellency Count Metternich, Minister Plenipotentiary of the Emperor; the Deputies of the Empire, and Citizens Treilhard, Bonnier, Roberjot, and Jean de Bry, Ministers Plenipotentiary of the French Republic, assembled at Rastadt, for the Purpose of negotiating a Peace between those Powers. Containing the whole of the State Papers, from the Commencement of the Negotiation in December 1797 to April 1799, the period of its Dissolution. From the Original Papers. With an English Translation.* 8vo. Pp. 723. Price 9s. Wright. London. 1800.

LITTLE more remains for us to do than to announce this collection of State-Papers, the most curious, we conceive, that was ever exhibited to Europe, since the days of its civilization, and since the mode of negotiation by a Congress was first established. A constant violation of the Law of Nations, on the one part, and a fruitless protest against, and subsequent degrading acquiescence in, such violation on the other; French perfidy, and Imperial weakness, combine to present a memorable lesson to the present, and to future ages;—the collection of such documents is an essential service rendered to history.

ART. XII. *Forethoughts on the General Pacification of Europe.* 8vo. Pp. 104. Wright. 1800.

THIS is a tract of no ordinary merit, and it treats of a subject of no ordinary importance. Those maxims of the public law of nations, which affect the very "*FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIETY*" are here considered in their relation to the present Political State of Europe;—and the necessity of an effectual and permanent provision for their preservation, at a general peace, is insisted on with equal strength and ability. No peace, that is not founded on these principles, can ensure either safety or continuance.

"The laws of natural Society are of such importance to the safety of all States," (says an eminent authority,) "that if the custom once prevailed of trampling them under foot; NO NATION could flatter herself