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Radical Reform:

ITS EFFECTS

IN THE

ABOLITION OF SINECURES AND PENSIONS;

IN THE

MODERATING OF PARTY VIOLENCE;

AND IN

THE RESTORATION

OF

A SECURE AND LASTING PEACE

TO

E U R O P E.

BY

PHILEUTHEROS PHILALETHES.

————— *specta Pœnas, et disce ferire,*
Disce mori.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR BOOKER, 61, NEW BOND-STREET:

AND SOLD BY HODGSON, WIMPOLE-STREET; AND TRIPHOOK, ST. JAMES'S STREET.

1810.

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\$ 66.00
Mar. 191

RADICAL REFORM:

ITS ADVANTAGES

ENUMERATED AND ILLUSTRATED,

AS AFFECTING

Mercury

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| The Ministry, | The State of Europe, |
| The Opposition, | Our Allies, |
| Courts of Appeal, | Political Parties, |
| The Law, | Parliament, |
| The Navy, | Health of Ministers, |
| The Army, | Morality and Loyalty, |
| Sinecures & Pensions, | Population, |
| The Crown, | National Gratitude, |
| Country Gentlemen, | Family Estates, and |
| Genuine Patriots, | Internal Police. |

TO WHICH ARE SUBJOINED

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON ITS EFFECTS

IN PROMOTING

SCIENCE, LITERATURE,

AND THE

FINE ARTS.

9070

RADICAL REFORM,

&c.

THE present situation of this country presents such extraordinary and irreconcilable contradictions, as baffle the ablest politicians. A ruinous and ferocious war, with the symptoms of continued and prosperous peace; myriads of men, and millions of money, sacrificed in every quarter of the globe, with a flourishing state of finance, and an increasing population; and the Members of both Houses occupied in perpetual contests, day and night, the one to preserve, and the other to obtain places, and, at the same time, the public offices kept open, just as if there were existing persons to fulfil their duties.

I should be glad to ask of either party, whether it was possible for Ministers, from the commencement to the close of the last Session, to devote *one single hour* to the duties of their respective offices? and whether, between Mrs. Clarke and Mr. Wardle,—and other objects equally insignificant, produced for no earthly purpose but to try the comparative strength of the combatants,—every hour was not employed, and every nerve strained; except now and then, when a political or financial topic was introduced *pro forma*; which, though apparently directed to the welfare of the nation, was, like their other debates, really and essentially a contest about loaves and fishes?

The over-eager desire of our statesmen to *serve their country* is attended with this effect,—that the country is not served at

all. Like domestics who are jostling one another, in their zealous attendance on an old master, they leave us in a worse situation than that of having no servants at all.

It has another inconvenience ;—that the qualification for office is a talent for a florid harangue, or a pointed reply, and not political knowledge, or habits of business. It is not the art of steering the ship in which we are all embarked, or of opposing the numerous foes that are endeavouring to sink her, but the knack of disputing about the command, and of fighting for the helm.

Again,—As the public business in this country has been increased, so have the hours for the dispatch of it been diminished. When, about twenty years ago, it had

doubled, the hours of business were reduced to half: and now, when it is increased in a ten-fold degree, the Minister is allowed no time for any thing. In consequence, his life is a continued paroxysm of fever. The most arduous business is dispatched in haste; and he, whose duties demand the most calm and mature consideration, has no time to *consider* at all; but, like Hamlet's tragedian, *acts* "in the very torrent, tempest, and whirlwind of passion,"—*spouting* like Mr. Puff, when he should be *thinking* like Lord Burleigh.

Though increased in violence of symptoms, the disease, however, is not new. A variety of projects have been, from time to time, submitted to the public; some of them so ridiculous, that one would really think the projectors were attempting to *make game* on a serious subject; as if this

violent anxiety of patriots for “ *nothing* but the honours and wealth of their country, were a thing for a jester to make a jest of.”—Such was Mr. Soame Jenyns’s “scheme for a coalition of parties,” by an *annual lottery*, in which all the great offices of the state were to be drawn, like the prizes at Guildhall; and therefore properly called THE STATE LOTTERY. Such again was Mr. Tickell’s plan for a great Buzaglo stove in St. Stephen’s Chapel, to relax the nerves and keep down the tone of the most vehement orators on each side of the House. Such too (not to multiply examples) have been the numerous plans of *parliamentary reform*; in which I can trace nothing but the remedy, which Sextus Empiricus informs us the ancient Persians adopted, to check the disposition to popular discontent;—that of abandon-

ing the country, periodically, and for a short time, to anarchy and confusion.

While I say thus much of plans to vary the representation of the country, I am aware of their popularity ; and of the ease and confidence, with which the most ignorant and illiterate can put together their notions on this subject : and I am also aware, that *some* do not propose to go further than *annual elections and universal suffrage*. Cautious men, however, are apprehensive, that those who praise French principles, may be inclined to adopt them ; and are therefore disposed to object to the naturalizing of a system of terror, plunder, murder, and desolation, in this country.— And really, after what Mr. Cobbett and others have said against these projects, and (still more) what the ablest advocates have

been able to say in their favour, it seems evident that they can have no other effect, but, by the heat and agitation which they will produce, to raise that to the *top*, which in every well-settled state of society naturally sinks to the *bottom*.

There was a practice among the Athenians, of providing for the safety of the state, by what they called OSTRACISM * : and though some persons considered it as a species of exile, and rather as a punishment than a favour,—yet Plutarch tells us, in his Life of Themistocles, that it was the greatest reward and honour †, which

* The people of Syracuse adopted this wise law, under the name of *Petalism*.

† OSTRACISM, once highly estimated at Athens, fell into discredit from the following circumstance. A low man contrived by a manœuvre to obtain the honour of this punishment. His name was HYPERBOLUS. Hence learned men, when they read any thing that is very absurd and improper,

that wise people ever conferred on their ablest and most virtuous statesmen.—A public attention of this kind has been lately paid by the House of Commons to Mr. HASTINGS, in return for his eminent services in India.—But of this, more hereafter.

When the cause and nature of a disease in the *body politic* is known, the remedy becomes easy. We are no longer obliged, like practitioners on the *body natural*, to try experiment after experiment, until the *materia medica* and the *patient* are both exhausted. I therefore proceed to explain myself, and briefly to state the cause of our present political disorder. It will be hardly necessary to inform the reader that

call it an *hyperbole*. See the Lives of Alcibiades, Aristides, and Nicias, in Plutarch.

the Minister and his associates are, in the strict sense of the word, TRUSTEES of all honours and emoluments, for themselves and the majority which *invariably* votes with them. These *cestui qui trusts* (as the lawyers express it) are again *trustees* for themselves and their political adherents. Now, as a carver, or distributor, can always take care of himself, *these same trusteeships* are sought for and devoured with such a voracious appetite, as to produce in the *body politic* perpetual acidity, flatulency, and heart-burning; so that, though we have *a most excellent constitution*, we are always subject to very disagreeable complaints.

Add to this, that the earnest and conscientious desire of the trustees, to do complete justice to their trust, makes them give every thing to their *cestuis qui trust*; and nothing is left to reward public services,

talent, learning, and such-like. I shall, as fast as I can get on, demonstrate to the reader, that, for this complaint, my prescription will afford an easy, safe, and effectual remedy.

Before, however, I state my plan (of which I may observe, that it is so obvious and so unexceptionable, that when once it is mentioned, every one will exclaim, “ why did I not make this discovery myself?”) it will be necessary for me to describe the characters of which I propose my Cabinet to consist, and then to state some of the effects of my plan ; to which I do not anticipate any objections, except such as are of a *personal* nature, and therefore ought to be entirely disregarded.

My Cabinet is to consist of nine persons:—the Lord Chancellor, who is to be

the most learned and distinguished man in his profession ;—a First Lord of the Treasury, and a Chancellor of the Exchequer, the two most intelligent financiers in the two Houses ;—a First Lord of the Admiralty, the Admiral highest in reputation and character on the list ;—a President of the Council, who shall be a lawyer of rank and eminence, selected in rotation from the chiefs of the four Courts * of Law and Equity ;—a Commander-in-Chief, one of our bravest and most experienced Generals ;—and three Secretaries of State, our three most able and enlightened politicians ;—all for the time being.

I now proceed to detail a few of the most obvious benefits, which will attend the

* The two Chief Justices, the Chief Baron, and the Master of the Rolls,

execution of what I have to propose. But here is my greatest difficulty. Like some of our brave Admirals and Generals, who, having achieved a glorious victory, find still remaining the insurmountable labour of giving an intelligible account of it,—so am I embarrassed in my attempt to display even a few of my most striking examples. One would think it might have been enough to have said at once, that my scheme contains *all* the advantages of *all* other projects, with some excellencies peculiarly its own. As however there are certain captious politicians, who are disposed to object to every thing, except what is most objectionable,—I mean what comes from themselves, — I shall state the effects of my plan, under twenty distinct heads ; and I shall pay the first attention, like most other political writers, to our present Ministers.

1. *The Ministry.*—It is not probable that Ministers will object to any thing, which will secure to them (as I shall shew hereafter) the quiet and undisturbed possession of their places *for life*; and give them leisure to do that business, which they are at present paid for, without doing. As matters now stand, they are compelled to spend half their time in a set battle with Opposition, and the other half in quarrelling and fighting among themselves.

2. *The Opposition.*—To them I need say little about any measure, the effect of which will be to give them what they so earnestly desire; and to render it unnecessary for them in future to send Envoys to foreign Allies, at war with this country; or to court (what they are always ashamed of) the aid of disaffected persons at home;—nor yet to censure what they really ap-

prove, or to criminate that, which in their consciences they believe to be right.

3. *Court of Appeal.*—I say nothing of the House of Lords, meaning to confine my observations to another Court; and to observe that, as Administrations are now formed, it is a matter of chance, whether the President of the Council (who conducts a dernier Court of Appeal in cases of great nicety and difficulty) is a fine gentleman *, or a sound lawyer. This I have corrected.

4. *The Law.*—I have at present to congratulate this learned profession, and when

* I am aware that some of my readers will justify such appointments, by referring to the golden days of Queen Elizabeth, and to the glorious year 1588; when, for want of some other Cabinet place for Sir Christopher Hatton, the Great Seal was bestowed on him, for his consummate knowledge of the art of dancing.

they have read my book they will have to thank me, for having devised a plan for realizing the hope (which they all possess) of attaining, in succession, the envied and elevated situation of Lord Chancellor of Great Britain, or President of the Council.

5. *The Navy*.—I have infinite satisfaction in contemplating the service I shall do to those heroes, who have established the superiority of the British flag and of British discipline, in every quarter of the globe. Having placed (for I consider my plan as already executed) a *naval Officer** at the head of the Admiralty, it will remain for me, in another part of this work, to explain the means which I have

* I do not mean to object to a GENERAL being First Lord of the Admiralty; provided it be compromised, by making an ADMIRAL Commander-in-Chief, or Secretary at War.

adopted, to secure the promotion of the most brave and deserving Officers, without any possible bias from personal favour, or parliamentary interest.

6. *The Army.*—Upon my system, promotion will be rapid and certain. Young Officers of merit will be sure of rising, not merely to majorities and regiments, but to more elevated and lucrative stations; or, if life be extended, to a place in the Cabinet. What a prospect for the brave defenders of our country!

7. *Abolition of Sinecures and Pensions.*—I have fixed that, in future, all grants of pensions and sinecures shall determine with the life of the Minister who bestowed them; and that half of such pensions and sinecures, so falling in, shall be from time to time abolished; and the other half shall

be at the disposal of His Majesty, or his Ministers. In this way, as I shall explain hereafter, they will be reduced to a moiety the first year ;—and to a quarter the second year ;—and, in progression, to the one hundred and twenty-eighth part of their present amount, at the end of seven years. This, indeed, will be, in the most beneficial sense, a SINKING FUND ;—an *Hygeian Bath*, by the regular use of which all our complaints will be removed.

8. *The Crown.*—The manner, in which our beloved and gracious Sovereign is importuned, by those who can approach his person, is too well known. The effects of my plan in exonerating the Pension List, and in obviating the inconvenience of grants for life and in reversion, will be clear and demonstrable. But it will also provide for the most deserving ; in that it will enable

His Majesty to weigh the real merit of individuals, and their claims on the public; and not (as at present) have the vexation to see those, who enjoy the most valuable marks of his royal favour, most violent against His Majesty's Government.

9. *Country Gentlemen*.—Another advantage will be, that the health of that useful animal, the Country Gentleman, will be preserved by my specific. He will get home to his roast beef in due time, and his family and friends will enjoy it with him at regular hours. The smallest portion of domestic comfort is incompatible with the present attendance on Parliament.

10. *Genuine Patriotism*.—I am sorry to observe, that many persons come into Parliament and into office, with very little in view but their own interest; and *genuine*

and *counterfeit* patriots are so intermingled, that it is impossible to distinguish them. Again, there are many men, who were *true patriots*, when in Opposition, yet turn out little better than *cunning knaves*, when they get into place. The reader will find, that both these evils will be corrected. None but true and honest patriots, who are ready to devote their lives to their country, will ever come into *my Cabinet*; and Ministers must necessarily improve, instead of growing worse as they usually do, by continuing in office. The whole of their official career will be a preparation for death; — a holy living and dying; — as I now proceed to show.

In a word, my plan is nothing more, nor less, than ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIONS, with ANNUAL EXECUTIONS; — a measure which will produce all the good, and none

of the bad effects, of annual or monthly elections. On the day next after the 31st of March in every year, His Majesty will graciously command a letter to be sent to the two leading Members of the two Houses, commanding * their attendance, in order to advise as to forming a new Administration. Opposition leaders generally have their lists ready : I therefore presume the Cabinet will be settled in a few minutes ; and that the new First Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer shall return to their respective Houses, and communicate His Majesty's gracious message, " that the House do proceed to consider of a *suitable provision* for his late " Ministers." This done, let the Members

* I would have it *very explicitly* worded ; so as not to be understood as a *royal command* by one statesman, and a *ministerial trick* by another.

of the former Cabinet be sent to Newgate, or the Gatehouse, as the two Houses (each taking care of its own Members) shall respectively determine! After a convenient preparation of ten days or a fortnight, let them be all hanged at the New Drop ; and the next Gazette contain a true and particular account of their lives, characters, and last dying speeches.

Such is my Plan.—Some other advantages remain to be stated, from what (excluding the pun) I shall call *its execution*. Without reminding Ministers how much better it will be for them to benefit their country by a public exhibition of this kind, than to be *shooting one another* in private, I shall conclude my labours by offering a few observations on three *obsolete* subjects ; which, though attended to in France and some other countries, have been

equally neglected and forgotten by our statesmen of all parties.—But, let me first enumerate some of the other advantages, from the measure which I have proposed.

11. *State of Europe.*—My plan will necessarily be attended with pacific measures. Wars, it is well known, are entered into for the sake of patronage and power. But that is, when the parties have a career of life before them. There are very few men who would not wish to *die* in peace: and, however desirous a *benevolent Minister* may be to promote the commercial views of one man, the military glory of another, the naval triumphs of a third, or the warlike and *unfailing* projects of his brother Minister,—yet he would not like to go to his last account; stained with the blood of thousands; but would prefer an armed and

defensive peace *, to the present most desolating war, that ever disgraced the annals of mankind.

12. *Our Allies*,—if there are any left that are worth consideration.—We shall have no motive, after peace is restored, to hold out to them hopes of support which we cannot give; nor expect exertions on their part which they cannot make.

13. *Moderation of Parties*.—The friendly terms on which Administration and Opposition will live, and the *sympathy* which

* I have no doubt but my plan will infuse a very pacific disposition into the Cabinet. “But yet I’ll make assurance double sure,” by imposing a duty of *fifty per cent. ad valorem* on all places, during war. Such an imposition will cut a figure in the list of *war taxes*; and will not only convert Ministers into *peaceable* men, but prevent their retainers from inflaming the *ardent spirits* of John Bull; who is of himself naturally too fond of fighting.

will exist between them,—the uninterrupted sedulity with which the *Ins* will execute their official duties, and the *Outs* prepare themselves for office, will be among the obvious consequences of my plan.

14. *Parliamentary Attendance*. — As it will now be the interest of every Member of either House to study and promote the real welfare of his country, there will not in future be any difference in the two Houses, except of opinion. This we know, without other ingredients, will never produce the offensive controversies which we have daily witnessed; nor call Members into the *arena, as political gladiators*; nor yet keep them in a state of fever and irritation, breathing noxious vapours, from seven at night to seven in the morning.

15. *Health of Ministers.* — This is connected with the preceding article. Ministers will in future preserve their health entire and undiminished. Instead of a constitution broken by late hours, vexatious contests, and a deleterious atmosphere,—instead of sinking (as two great men have lately done) under the fatigue and vexation of political warfare,—they will preserve the vigour of youth to their *dying* day.

16. *Morality and Loyalty.* — It is well known, that the admission of envy and discontent into the human heart, has a most pernicious effect, in making immoral men and bad subjects. When my plan has once taken effect, the elevated stations and splendid equipages of Ministers, *with the sword of Damocles hanging over*

their heads, will no longer produce either envy or discontent in the multitude.

17. *Population*.—It having been demonstrated, to the satisfaction of some Members of the lower House, that an healthy and increasing population is a most dangerous evil; and that the only checks to it are vice and profligacy; I hope to have due credit for devising a check of a *moral and exemplary nature*; one not affecting the useful labourer, but the luxurious class, in which is the greatest proportional waste of food. This I leave to be further discussed by the ingenious author of the new system.

18. *National Gratitude*. — It will not be again necessary, in return for the preservation of half our empire, and by a species

of *Ostracism*, to carry on for years (what both parties must have been always ashamed of) an *oppressive prosecution*; and at last, to leave the object of it, after he had been, *honourably acquitted*, absolutely ruined by a debt of above 100,000*l.*, for costs of suit; — and all this, in order that Ministers might keep Opposition employed, and their opponents display all their talents.

19. *Family Estates*.—The advantages to the old families, in annually merging their annuities, and other incumbrances depending on lives, would be what fine writers affect to call *incalculable*. Instead therefore of denominating mine the *sinking*, I shall term it the *rising fund*; venturing to predict that it will *raise* all the old families in the kingdom; and that, in a very few years, the great estates in this country will

be so disencumbered, that the owners will no longer be obliged to rack their tenants, nor even to solicit pensions and places, to enable them to live on their fortunes.

20. *Internal Police.*—The diminution of crimes, and the infrequency, and perhaps entire disuse, of capital punishments for highway robberies, &c. will be a necessary, though not an immediate, consequence of my plan. Upon this subject, I shall for the present only casually observe, that public exhibitions of this kind produce an impression, in proportion to the rank and elevation of the party. A learned friend of mine, very conversant with this subject, informs me, that by an accurate calculation it appears, that the execution of one Nobleman will, in point of example and effect, be *exactly equal* to that of forty-seven thieves and three quarters.

After a detail of such advantages, it may appear idle, to notice any thing that is common or unpopular. But the ease with which a national opprobrium will be now done away, is my apology for adding a few words on the promotion of science, the encouragement of literature and the fine arts, and (I was going to add) the instruction of the poor.—On this latter subject, however, I shall say nothing: for if the advantages which the northern part of this island has enjoyed for the last century, and the evidence adduced from Scotland, “that Education is the fruitful mother of good men and loyal subjects,” will not draw the attention of Ministers, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

In speaking of SCIENCE, I avoid entering into topics of former ages; or making

invidious comparisons with those periods of the world, when philosophy received *public* support and respect, — for its own sake, — for the sake of mankind, — for the improvement of the intellect, — and for the advancement of natural and moral truth.

I shall take a more popular ground. — But first let me, by permission, ask our statesmen, which of them, either in or out of power, can claim one atom of merit, for the promotion of science in this country? Who has ever thought of applying a tithe of our *cheese-parings and candle-ends* (words which a late Secretary of State contemptuously applied to *savings on millions*) in the reward of the labours and exertions of those scientific men, who confer the highest honour and benefit on this country?

Waiting their answer, I shall endeavour

first to avail myself of their sentiments of hostility; and I shall respectfully inquire, why, when they enter into competition with Bonaparte on other objects, a rivalry in the promotion of science was never thought of? and why, when he enjoys the honour of founding and supporting the National Institute of Paris at a great expense, the Royal Institution in our own metropolis should have been entirely forgotten? While their rival has appropriated thousands to his scientific establishment,—I should humbly solicit an explanation, why *ours* has been *taxed* to the uttermost; and left to struggle with financial difficulties, in the prosecution of discoveries, important in the highest degree to the manufactures and agriculture of this country? It may be, that our statesmen do not value the researches of their own countrymen; and that they do not know

that the annual prize of the Paris Institute, for useful and important discovery, has been recently adjudged to our English Professor of Chemistry.

So much for *political hostility* :—now for *pecuniary interest*. — Are our statesmen aware, that extended manufactures, commercial enterprises, colonial speculations, and agricultural improvements, depend on the aid and direction of Science ; and that Science has not yet done for them *all* that she can do? There is hardly a week passes in the Laboratory of the Royal Institution, in which the learned Professor of Chemistry does not produce some scientific truth, or develop some hidden property of matter, which may contribute to the increase of our national resources. To retain the market of the world, a continued succession

of these researches will be indispensably necessary. Whenever we lose our pre-eminence in useful and practical science, we shall lose our superiority in manufactures, and with it (what perhaps Ministers may think of some importance) our sources of taxation.

It being my determination not to accept more than a moderate per centage on *part* of the savings from my plan (a tithe of the first million saved), I have resolved to appropriate a fourth of my portion, being 25,000*l.* a year, to the promotion of science in this country : and, in order to prevent its being converted into a job, I shall place it under the direction of those of my countrymen, who have protected and preserved Science, in her forlorn and despised state.

As to literary men, I need say but little. They can take care of themselves; and if they were once to unite, they would convince Ministers, that it is better to have their gratitude than their enmity. I shall therefore only ask with humility, how many instances can be given, of pensions and preferments bestowed on literary characters, the motive for which cannot be traced to some political pamphlet, or election intrigue; or, at the best, to the tutorage of some Nobleman, with whom, or with whose father, the Minister is in treaty; and I shall then notify my resolution of giving 25,000*l.* a year (other part of my 100,000*l.*) in pensions to our most distinguished literary characters.— At the same time, taking into consideration the numerous and splendid entertainments, which the Government Papers

inform us Ministers are *every day* giving to one another, I shall devote (and I consider it as a very great sacrifice) the like annual sum of 25,000*l.*, towards the expense of Cabinet dinners.

My next object, “ though last not least “ in love,” is the GRAPHIC MUSE.—I am aware that it is an axiom of modern *economists*, that the fine arts * have no claim on the public purse; and that great statesmen of all former ages have erred, who, in this respect, have called forth the genius, or consulted the reputation, of their country. Reflecting with self-complacency on their own *golden age of trade*

* By the fine arts I do not mean any *mechanical* art; nor yet the art of painting flowers, or fruit, or butterflies;—nor even the minute productions of the Dutch and Flemish Painters. I refer to the elevated and intellectual examples of the Athenian and Roman schools.

and politics, they must look with contempt * on the intellectual triumphs of Greece and Italy. It were idle to talk to them of the age of Phidias or Raphael †; or to remind them, that the arts of design then attained such envied excellence, because they then received public respect, and public reward;—or to observe that British talents, when duly encouraged, have not yielded the prize of intellect, or

* Enjoying the same high feelings, as *Hogarth's French Dancing-Master*, contemplating the Statue of ANTIQUUS.

† “ The moral influence of the arts is entirely out of their
 “ contemplation. Their power over the minds and man-
 “ ners of mankind makes no item in the gross estimate
 “ they have formed of their value. Their operation, as ex-
 “ citing to patriotism and alluring to virtue—as the stimulus
 “ and reward of the sage and the hero—as promoting the
 “ true greatness and perpetuating the real glory of a people;
 “ all these considerations, which are the first and most im-
 “ portant in an enlightened view of the fine arts, are never
 “ taken into the scale of vulgar computation, and are treated
 “ as the Utopian reveries of enthusiastic taste and fanciful
 “ refinement.”—MR. SHEE'S *Letter to the President and*
Directors of the British Institution.

achievement, to any age, or to any country. — Like GALLIO (the Roman Deputy of Achaia) they have “cared for none of those things.”

I am aware that they honour the members of the Royal Academy by eating an annual dinner at their expense; and that their houses and the print-shops are encumbered with their portraits. But (if I may presume) I will ask what they have done more, — or what the *Cabinet Ministers*, or Chiefs of the Cherokees and Chikataws could have done less, for the promotion of the Fine Arts * in their native land?

* Though I have just quoted Mr. SHEE's Letter, yet I cannot help observing on his “Plan for the National Encouragement of Historical Paintings in the United Kingdom;”—that it seems to have removed the difficulty, — of so applying a *small* sum, as to produce a *great* and instantaneous effect: and I am convinced,

HIS MAJESTY has ever been the distinguished protector of the British School of Painting and Sculpture. His Ministers cannot therefore with a good grace, in this, as in other instances, skulk behind the throne : nor yet will they venture to say, that the prosperous state of our manufactures, and the permanency of many of our national resources and funds of taxation, do not in a great measure depend on the prevalence of the fine arts. If our Sovereign and all his subjects had

that the very mention of it in the House of Commons would be felt, like an electric spark, by all the artists in this country. Portrait-painting in England, I am aware, is intrinsically *more profitable*, than any competition for one of Mr. Shee's prizes will ever be : and yet I am confident that, when such a field of competition shall be opened to the artist, portrait-painting will, in a degree, be neglected.— Other projects require a progress of preparation, and a period of maturity. The operations of Mr. Shee's plan would be immediate. — I ENVY THE FEELINGS AND FAME OF THE MINISTER, WHO SHALL FIRST ANNOUNCE THE MEASURE.

been as torpid and indifferent about the improvement of national taste, as his immediate delegates, whence would our manufactures have derived that classical elegance, which has been their peculiar characteristic during the present reign *; and which has essentially contributed to supply the means of carrying on the present war?

The spirit which the enlightened and

* “ Who is there so little informed in the modern History of England, as not to be aware, that the present flourishing state of its manufactures and export trade is greatly owing to the progress of the fine arts, under HIS MAJESTY’S JUDICIOUS PATRONAGE? Who does not know that in hardware, cottons, and porcelain,—and in every other article to which the industry and attention of the British artisan has been applied, superior beauty of form, and refined elegance of ornament, have contributed to make our manufactures coveted throughout the world;—and to introduce them into every country, in despite of political warfare and penal prohibition?” — *Original Address of the Founders of the British Institution.*

patriotic views of His Majesty first called forth, and which a few individuals are now attempting to foster and preserve, shall not perish for want of a proper support ; nor shall this country serve as an example to future ages, of the effects of narrow and niggardly policy. — I possess ample means, which will be derived from the assured success of my plan : and I hereby give the residue of my fund, being 25,000*l.* a year, to the encouragement of the Fine Arts in this country.

