

Royal Gazette, and Miscellany of the Island of Saint John.

PUBLISHED EVERY FORTNIGHT.

CHARLOTTE TOWN: PRINTED BY WILLIAM A. RIND, PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

TO THE PUBLIC.

THE Practice of addressing the Public, on similar Occasions, has been so long established, as to preclude the Possibility of deviating from so customary a Road, without incurring the Charge of presumptuous Temerity—and though in Compliance with this Usage, the Printer deems it unnecessary to enter into a Detail of the Advantages obviously attendant on a Public Paper, or to point out the Benefits resulting therefrom; yet it may not be improper to declare, that no Exertions shall be wanting on his Part to render this Paper the Channel of interesting Intelligence, and a Repository of elegant Amusement and useful Information.

Whatever can afford Instruction and favour Improvement, will be carefully selected for the Perusal of the Public.—Assiduity, Candour, and Attention, he trusts, will mark his Conduct in the Management of this Gazette; and the strictest Impartiality will be observed.

The Communications and Favours of Gentlemen, whose Leisure and literary Abilities enable them to contribute to the Amusement and Edification of the Public, by the Diffusion of Knowledge and Instruction, will at all Times be thankfully received, and inserted gratis.

ON NEWSPAPERS.

From an ingenious Work, the production of a Society of Gentlemen at Oxford.

I WAS not a little pleased the other day, upon paying a visit at the house of a person of distinction in the country, to find the family assembled round a large table, covered with maps, globes, and books, at the upper end of which sat a young lady, like a professor, reading from the chair. In her hand she held a news-paper. Her father told me he had long accustomed her, while reading one of those vehicles of intelligence, to acquaint herself with the several towns and countries mentioned, by turning to the names in Salmon's Gazetteer, and then finding them out upon the globe, or a map; in which she was become so great a proficient, as to be at that time in truth giving a lecture in geography to her younger brothers and sisters. It was his father's intention, he said that from Campbell's present state of Europe, she should acquire a sufficient knowledge of the history of the kingdoms around us, as well as our own, to form an idea of their importance and interests respectively, and the relation each bears to the other.—Verily thought I to myself, this is reading a news-paper to some purpose.

Children, very early in life, are eager for the sight of a news paper. Being called upon, in a free and easy way, for some little account of what is in it, they may gradually be brought to read with attention, and to fix upon those articles which are most worthy of notice; as also to remember what they have read, from one day to another, and to put things together.

While we are in the world, we must converse with the world; and the conversation, in part, will turn on the news of the day. It is the first subject we begin upon; a general introduction to every thing else. All mankind, indeed, are our brethren, and we are interested, or ought to be interested, in their pleasures and their pains, their sufferings, or their deliverances throughout the world. Accounts of these should produce in us suitable emotions, which would tend to the exercise of different virtues, and the improvement of our tempers. We should accustom ourselves hereby to rejoice, with those who rejoice, and sympathize with those who mourn.

When any country is likely to become the theatre of remarkable events and revolutions

(as, for instance, France and the dominions of Russia, Turkey, &c. at this very moment) it is worth one's while to refresh one's memory with the history of that country; its constitution, and the changes it has heretofore undergone, the nature and disposition of the people, &c. a sort of knowledge which is sure to be called for. The man who makes himself perfect and correct in it, will gain credit, and give pleasure, in every company into which he may happen to fall.

Whatever instruction is reaped from history, may be reaped from a news-paper, which is the history of the world for one day. It is the history of that world in which we now live, and with which we are, consequently, more concerned than with those which have passed away, and exist only in remembrance; though, to check us in the too fond love of it, we may consider that the present likewise will soon be past, and take its place in the repositories of the dead.

Accounts of the most extraordinary events in old times are now perused by us with the utmost indifference. With equal indifference will the history of our own times be perused by our descendants; and a day is coming, when all past transactions will appear in the same light, those only excepted, by a consideration of which we have been made wiser and better.

There are few, perhaps, by which we may not become so.

What nobler employment for the human mind, than to trace the designs of Providence in the rise and fall of empires; the overthrow of one and the establishment of another upon its ruins; to watch diligently the different steps by which these changes are effected; to observe the proceedings of the great ruler of the universe, always in strict conformity to the rules with which he himself has furnished us; to behold generals with their armies, and princes, with their people, executing his counsels, while pursuing their own; to view upon the stage of the world, those scenes which are continually shifting, the different actors appearing in succession, and the gradual progress of the drama, each incident tending to develop the plot and bring on the catastrophe?

In the midst of these secular commotions, these conflicts of contending nations, it is useful to observe the effects produced by them on the state of religion upon the earth; while, among the powers of the world, some protect, and others persecute; some endeavour to maintain its old forms, and others