

THE
WEEKLY REGISTER:

CONTAINING

POLITICAL, HISTORICAL, GEOGRAPHICAL, SCIENTIFIC,	 	ASTRONOMICAL, STATISTICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL
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DOCUMENTS, ESSAYS AND FACTS ;

TOGETHER WITH

NOTICES OF THE ARTS AND MANUFACTURES, AND A RECORD OF THE
EVENTS OF THE TIMES.

H. NILES, EDITOR.

" ———— I wish no other herald,
" No other speaker of my living actions,
" To keep mine honor from corruption
" But such an honest chronicler."

Shakspeare.—HENRY VIII.

FROM SEPTEMBER 1811 TO MARCH 1812.—VOL. I,

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THE WEEKLY REGISTER.

VOL. I.]

BALTIMORE, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1811.

[No. 1.]

"—I wish no other herald,
"No other speaker of my living actions,"
"To keep mine honor from corruption
"But such an honest chronicler."

Shakespeare—HENRY VIII.

Printed and published by H. NILES, Water-street, near the Merchants' Coffee-House, at \$5 per annum.

THE EDITOR TO THE PUBLIC.

Custom forms a "*common law*"—it is second nature. A first number without an address would outrage the law: as we propose to demean ourselves in the most peaceable manner, we submit to the law, and offer our thanks for the very liberal patronage our work has received in many parts of the Union.

The current of sentiment is evidently in our favor (*we say our*, for printers and kings have an unquestionable right, by the aforesaid law, to make much of themselves)—the unusual number of subscribers already obtained, convinces the editor that his opinion was just as to the want of a work such as the WEEKLY REGISTER is intended to be; but while so great success flatters his pride and provokes his exertion, it also alarms his fears, lest, in despite of all he can do, the public expectation may be disappointed, though to guard against this, he has made some extensive as well as expensive preparations.

In arranging his matter for the first number, the editor has compared himself to a young shop-keeper (just commencing business) suddenly thrust into an immense warehouse of most valuable goods.—His eye is pleased with a great variety of articles, and his judgment convinced they would, in due season, answer his customers—but he cannot purchase all; and, hurried by the quantities before him, perhaps, selects some things that, for the present, he had better leave untouched, though ultimately and unquestionably good. As time tempers his judgment, and experience, the great teacher, enlightens his views, he enters the same warehouse without palpitation, and deliberately lays off such articles as are adapted to the wants of his neighbors. We hope thus to meet the wishes of our numerous friends; and trust that, by a single number, they will not attempt to judge the merits of our work—as its utility (if any it shall have) will not become so manifest before several are joined together.

Some have feared we should "dabble too much in politics"—i.e. party politics; and others have apprehended "the work will not stand." It is in our power to remove the first cause of apprehension—but the latter depends on the public as well as ourselves. The first shall be removed, as the REGISTER proceeds—it is not intended for electioneering purposes, of course party politics will be avoided; yet, by the insertion of original and selected essays, on both sides of great national questions, we shall feel it our duty to preserve a history of the feelings of the times on men and things. If we have discovered the rock on which our predecessors have shipwrecked, the second cause of apprehension may, perhaps, be removed. We attribute the general failure of periodical publications to too great a dependence on voluntary contributions from persons without an interest in the work, whose spirit flags when novelty ceases to charm. Though we

intend to pay the most grateful attention to communications of this kind, and hereby respectfully solicit them, still we have made no calculation upon them, except so far as they relate to the arts and sciences—to manufactures—and to agriculture, in which, from the public patriotism, we hope for considerable aid. We may sometimes do our work roughly, but for our own sakes (that is, the editor and those associated with him) will attend to it diligently; and by close application strive to render it useful.

This number is to be regarded as a fair sample of the paper and manner in which the work will be uniformly printed. Further to manifest our views and intentions, the patrons of the REGISTER are informed, that the Editor proposes, among his selections, to insert the official reports of *Alexander Hamilton* and *Albert Gallatin*, Esquires, on the manufactures of the United States, also the report of the latter on *Roads and Canals*; likewise to publish *Mr. Jefferson's* celebrated report on weights and measures.—When the present secretaries of State and of the Treasury shall lay their respective reports before Congress on the population, manufactures, &c. of the United States, they shall be given to our readers as a single number, however voluminous they may be—and to the report of the former shall be prefixed the state of population as ascertained by the census of 1790 and 1800 and such other facts as can be collected relating to the same subject at more distant periods; so that, by comparison, the rising importance of our country may be duly esteemed.* *Mr. John Quincy Adams's* letter to *Harrison Gray Otis*, Esq. as containing an admirable history of the causes which produced the embargo, and rendered necessary some other important acts of the government, shall have place in the Register. *Mr. Pickering's* political essays shall also be recorded in an extra number or numbers; likewise *Mr. Robert Smith's* address, with the "*Review*" of it, published in the *National Intelligencer*. These things are particularised merely to show our general design.

In the original prospectus we promised only twenty-six numbers to a volume—it is more than probable they will exceed thirty perhaps amount to thirty-two. For this extra expense, if incurred, we shall seek indemnification in the hope of pleasing the public, and so increase our patronage; with which we will try to keep pace.

As a proper close for this article we put on record the prospectus for the WEEKLY REGISTER, as first issued from the press—

*The Editor respectfully gives notice to the trade, that he intends to print an extra number of these tracts for sale, with which he will supply booksellers and others on very liberal terms. Mr. P's essays will be printed in 18mo—the pocket size, on a beautiful brevier type, and fine paper.

SOMETHING NEW.

PROPOSALS for publishing by subscription, in the city of Baltimore, on a plan entirely new, a periodical work, to be entitled

The Weekly Register.

This shall be published every Saturday at noon—printed on a sheet of fine super-royal paper, with a *non-pariel* or *brevier* type, and contain 16 pages octavo, at FIVE DOLLARS *per annum*, payable at the expiration of six months from the commencement of the publication, and annually thereafter. But subscribers, non-residents of the cities or towns in which the editor shall have an agent, must always pay in advance after the first six months above stated. Twenty-six numbers shall constitute a volume, making two large volumes in a year.

It shall be delivered in the city and precincts of Baltimore on the day of publication—and be carefully packed up and sent to subscribers residing at a distance by the first mail thereafter leaving this Post-office, whithersoever it may be directed.

On or before the publication of the first thirteen numbers any subscriber shall be at liberty to withdraw his name, on payment of what may be due for the numbers received. (*This arrangement, it is presumed, will induce a liberal public to give our attempt a fair trial.*) But after the publication of the said thirteen numbers, all subscriptions will be considered as for one year, unless expressly agreed to the contrary; and as continued thereafter if not otherwise ordered. On discontinuance arrearages must always be paid.

To give an idea of the quantity of matter the proposed work will contain, it will be proper to observe, that each number of the WEEKLY REGISTER will have about *one fourth more* reading than is compressed in the largest of our news papers *outside and inside*. Advertisements will not be admitted.

GENERAL PROSPECTUS.

The plan on which it is proposed to conduct this work is stated to be *new*—the following sketch of it is, therefore, respectfully submitted: Its contents shall be divided into several leading heads—to wit, HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, BIOGRAPHY—NOTICES OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES AND MANUFACTURES, in their most liberal and extended meaning—MISCELLANY—NEWS.

1. Under the general head of POLITICS shall be inserted essays and discussions, original and selected on all matters of a public nature, deemed interesting to the generality of the readers of the Register. *It shall be open to all parties, temper, moderation and dignity being preserved.* Selections will be made with justice and impartiality, so that the “public reason” may fairly discern the merits of a case in controversy. In this department will be published all the interesting PUBLIC DOCUMENTS, laws, “orders and decrees,” of the United States, and of the several states, as well as of foreign countries, *retrospective and present*—comprehensive abstracts or full details of the *constitutions and forms of government* of all nations and states, so far as they are known—the most esteemed *SPEECHES IN CONGRESS*, and in our STATE LEGISLATURES, *pro and con*, and occasionally, the speeches of foreign orators and statesmen—EXTRACTS from political works of reputation, foreign and domestic—and a great variety of eminently useful TABLES, copied or compiled from the best authorities, relative to the

population, extent, resources, imports, exports, manufactures, agricultural productions, naval and military strength, revenue, coins, weights and measures, &c. &c. of all countries—the whole of which shall, as nearly as possible, contain all the chief things necessary to be known and remembered for forming a just idea of the matters coming under this extensive head, as well describing what they have been as what they are.

2. Under the head of HISTORY shall be inserted brief, yet comprehensive accounts of the revolutions of empires—the state of society in different parts of the world, at different periods—NOTICES of memorable events, with details of the most remarkable battles, treaties, conventions, &c. embracing a wide range of the useful and entertaining, to be gleaned from works of established merit or extracted from official documents.

3. BIOGRAPHY, past and cotemporary, shall form a rich department of the WEEKLY REGISTER.

4. GEOGRAPHY shall be particularly attended to. The best authorities, relative to this highly interesting concern shall be diligently consulted, and, by abstract or extract, laid before the readers of the Register—so that a good understanding may be had of the country treated of.

5. NOTICES OF THE ARTS, SCIENCES AND MANUFACTURES, and communications on AGRICULTURAL pursuits, with essays, facts, or hints for their improvement or encouragement, shall be eagerly sought for and carefully attended to.

6. Under the general head of MISCELLANY shall be inserted a variety of articles: enlightened sometimes by the reflections of the pious and researches of the scientific, and, at others, enlivened by the flashes of the witty; always avoiding whatever may provoke religious controversy, or “give a fear to innocence.”

7. A neat summary of the news of the preceding week, and occasionally details of important events abroad and at home, legislative, judicial, and executive—commercial, military and miscellaneous, shall be inserted in every number—so as to present a general view of what is doing in the world.

* * It may well be observed that the preceding outline is very extensive; but when the great quantity of matter the work will contain is considered, there will appear room enough to attend to every part of it, as we progress with the publication.

Such is as nearly the plan on which the WEEKLY REGISTER will be conducted as at present can be delineated. We think it promises something interesting at the present moment, and, as a BOOK OF REFERENCE, a FUND OF READING always at hand, a work of much probable value. It is presumed every subscriber will carefully file his numbers, under an assurance they will always be worth the first cost, containing much more useful matter than ever was published in any part of the world for the same money. With the last number of each volume will be delivered a minute index and general title, free of expence.

ADDRESS.

It has long appeared to the proposed editor that a work of this kind was much wanted; and the general failure of the many periodical publications attempted to be established in the United States has not been sufficient to shake his belief in its final success. The political department is particularly designed to promote a *present* interest to the reader, and the whole calculated to form a record of useful things; not to be obtained in any other publication;

nor, indeed, to be obtained at all, except by the most laborious research, and patient investigation for facts that lie scattered through thousands of volumes.

The news-papers of the day, devoted to *party and partisan*, seldom dare to "*tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.*" Every city, town, and village has its *little great men*, whose interests and views must be subverted, and the dignity of the press is prostrated to the will of aspiring individuals. There are some honorable exceptions to this general remark, which has not been made without a due investigation of its import. I allude to the publishers on both sides of the question—republicans and federalists. The editor does not intend to interfere in the petty disputes between the *ins and outs*; for, as he hopes the Register will receive a general support, he will endeavor to make it generally interesting, having in view, as an assistant, a gentleman of the first rate literary acquirements. Its politics shall be *American*—not passive and lukewarm, but active and vigilant—not to support individuals, but to subserve the interests of the people, so far as he shall be able to discern in what their interest lies. There are good and bad men in both the great political parties which sever the people of the United States—there are republicans who are not federalists, and federalists who are not republicans—there is a difference between names and deeds.

The intended publisher is, in the common language of the day, a "democratic republican"—and, as a duty he owes his own creed, will enforce it as well as he can; at the same time granting to others all the privileges he assumes to himself, *that truth may be discerned.*

To prepare for the work a heavy expence must be incurred; it will not be commenced unless there is every prospect of a strong support. The drudgery will be prodigious, and the disbursements considerable.

As there are many reasons very important (to the Editor) why the probable success of this undertaking should be ascertained, he solicits his friends, generally, and others desirous of encouraging it, to send in their names as *speedily as possible*. It is to be hoped he will be able to commence it on or before the first of September. H. NILES.

Late Editor of the Baltimore Evening Post.
Baltimore, June 24, 1811.

Domestic Manufactures.

(INTRODUCTORY.)

In the prospectus for this work it is declared that "notices of the arts, sciences and manufactures, and communications on agricultural pursuits, with essays, facts, and hints for their improvement; and encouragement, shall be eagerly sought for and carefully attended to."

The present is a period naturally leading to the establishment of manufactures. Deprived of our accustomed commerce by the arbitrary and illegal proceedings of the belligerent nations of Europe—obstructed, by military power, from an exercise of our right to carry the productions of our own soil to the proper markets for them; and so denied the ability to pay for those fabrications it has hitherto (perhaps) been our interest to receive from abroad—it is imperiously demanded of the American people that they should look to themselves, and in themselves, and from the inestimably valuable raw materials of their country's growth, make for themselves those articles of necessity, convenience, or even of luxury, which it once suited them to

obtain from the work-shops of the old world—to draw themselves off from such nations as would (if they could) compel us to purchase their manufactures, though draining us of the last cent to pay for them, in forbidding an ingress of our commodities to such ports and places as might enable us to preserve a well balanced account in our trade with the world—without which, national as well as individual poverty must inevitably ensue.

Under such circumstances it is not surprising that many enlightened and patriotic citizens have expressed their decided approbation of our proposition to allot a department of the WEEKLY REGISTER to the purposes mentioned above, under a hope that the facts therein to be collected may become useful to our common country now advancing with giant strides to real independence by a proper application of the public labor to the public wants.

Without attempting to derogate from the high reputation foreign commerce enjoys, it may safely be said that the internal trade of any country (even of England herself) is incalculably more valuable. In the United States the *home trade* is daily approaching its natural importance; but, though our domestic manufactures for the year 1810, were estimated at one hundred and fifty three millions of dollars, and it is probable the result of the present year will advance the mighty aggregate fifty millions more, there yet remains a great deal to be done before we can expect to meet the current demand of our citizens.

The editor is pleased to assure his readers that he has reason to expect some highly valuable communications on these interesting subjects—and as every man owes something to the society that affords him life, liberty, and the unobscured pursuit of his happiness, he would respectfully suggest to all persons whose bent of mind or common avocation leads them to ascertain or apply the resources of our country to the wants of its population, the propriety of putting on record the results of their individual experience for the benefit of others, and their own improvement; and to entreat the WEEKLY REGISTER may become the repository of such facts as they may deem proper to give to the world. Thus a public and private good may be effected—the first in learning good things—the other in communicating them—for, as the celebrated Dr. Priestly observed, there is no way of becoming so easily acquainted with any given subject as to write, or attempt to write a book or essay upon it. The justice of this remark will strike every man on a moment's reflection.

The prejudices which existed against manufactures have been dispelled or are dispelling by the influence of experience, the sure criterion of all things. It has been discovered (and a most important discovery it is) that we can fabricate many, very many articles, as cheap as they can be imported from Europe, leaving to the manufacturer and capitalist ample indemnities for their labor and risk, and giving to the public a better commodity from the immediate responsibility of the persons engaged in casting it into the market.

The editor has not the vanity to believe that any thing he may say, of himself, can do much to improve the knowledge of his fellow-citizens in the arts, sciences, and manufactures, or in agricultural pursuits, but he hopes he may give some *encouragement* to them by holding up examples of the progress made therein by others, and in collecting facts relative to them—in which attempt he expects to receive the aid or good wishes of all who love their country.

History

Of the Invasion of Spain by Bonaparte.

[ABRIDGED FROM THE MOST AUTHENTIC SOURCES.]

CHAPTER I.

Conspiracy of the Escorial. Views of the Prince's party. Secret treaty of Fontainebleau between France and Spain for the partition of Portugal. The French treacherously seize upon the frontier fortresses. Alarm of the Spanish court. Tumult at Aranjuez. Abdication of Charles IV. in favor of his son Fernando Carlos.

On the 30th October, 1807, a proclamation was issued from the Escorial, in which the King of Spain accused his son the prince of Asturias, of conspiring to dethrone him. A few days after this a second proclamation appeared in which two letters from the prince were contained. The first is addressed to the king, and the author confesses that he has failed in his duty to his king and obedience to his father. In the second he prays the queen to pardon the fault he had committed, and implores her mediation in his behalf. It was in this manner that "the voice of nature unnerved the hand of vengeance!"⁽¹⁾ The prince declared the authors of this horrible plot, and laid open every thing in legal form, consistent with the proofs which the law requires in such cases. The judges, therefore, were commanded to continue the process, and submit their judgment to the king, which was to be according to the magnitude of the offence and the quality of the offender.

This mysterious affair has never been clearly elucidated. The Spaniards imputed it to the machinations of don Manuel Godoy, prince de la Paz, or of the Peace, an upstart who from being, in the most infamous sense of the word, the favorite of the queen, had attained the highest power in the state. This man was completely subservient to France, and it was supposed in this country, that whether any such conspiracy as was alleged had existed or not, the real plot was devised by Bonaparte, for the sake of exciting divisions in the royal family. This opinion is supported by Don Pedro Cevallos, in his exposition of Bonaparte's conduct in the usurpation of Spain; a document against the validity of which all objections that have been raised are futile and falacious.⁽²⁾

The Spaniards are, perhaps, the only people who have undergone no national degradation when their country was degraded. A series of imbecile sovereigns had reduced it from the most powerful kingdom in the world, to a secondary state, whose government for nearly the last century, had been inglorious abroad, and oppressive at home. But while Spain was regarded with pity or contempt, a different feeling prevailed concerning the Spaniards. They were universally acknowledged to be an honorable people. It was not so generally known that they felt and groaned for the degradation of their country. When the French revolution broke out, the young and the ardent-minded there, as in the rest of Europe, eagerly adopted principles which promised a new and happier order of things, though

the partisans of those principles were comparatively less numerous than in any other country, in consequence, partly, of the state of the press, but still more of the feeling and devotion with which the Spaniards are attached to their religion and all its forms. There were however many, and those of the best of the Spaniards, who hoped to obtain that reformation in their government, by the assistance of France which without such assistance they knew it would not only be hopeless, but fatal to attempt.—That attachment which they had formed for the French Republic, too many transferred to the French Empire. Monstrous as this inconsistency may appear, the transition is easily explained; for having from their principles, at first acquired the feelings of a party, they deluded themselves by supposing that, in serving their party, they served their principles, till at last they had no other principle than the party interest itself. Thus it is that Massaredo and Uquijo, beginning in feelings of true patriotism, have ended in rendering themselves infamous to all posterity as traitors to their country.

Another class of Spaniards had been hostile to the French revolution till its character was changed by Bonaparte. They saw nothing to fear in the principles of his government, and the acts of personal atrocity which he committed did not sufficiently alarm them. The unhappy circumstance with which the war with England had commenced irritated them against that country, and this sentiment of indignation naturally inclined them towards France. They seem to have conceived that the best means of obtaining reform would be by contracting a closer alliance with the French emperor, and, therefore, to have projected, or listened to the plan of a marriage between their prince Ferdinand and a princess of the Imperial family. These views would have been reasonable, if any ties could have restrained the merciless ambition of this blood hunter. For though it might be his policy then to keep Spain in a state of weakness and consequent dependence, yet when his own blood acquired an interest in the prosperity of that kingdom, it might fairly be expected that these salutary changes, which were essential to its welfare, would be promoted by him, and peaceably effected under his auspices. According to Cevallos, the plan was suggested to the prince by the French ambassador at Madrid, instructed by his master, though not, perhaps, acquainted with his designs; the ambassador, he says, persuaded him to write to Bonaparte proposing such an alliance. To this he was induced by his anxiety to avoid a marriage with a lady who had been selected for him by the prince of Peace, and who, "on that account alone," says Cevallos, "was an object of aversion." A few days after this letter was written, occurred the imprisonment of his person, and the decree which was issued on the subject, in the name of the king. These are strong reasons to believe, according to the "Exposition," that the unknown hand, by which the feigned conspiracy was frustrated, was some French agent employed to forward the plan which Napoleon had formed. The Spaniards considered the whole as a calumny fabricated by Godoy, to remove the only obstacle which impeded his views; and he soon found it necessary to set the prince at liberty and to drop those proceedings which had been instituted by his party. Cevallos states that the letters from the prince which we have before cited, were written by Godoy, who compelled the prince to sign them while he was in confinement. According to this writer, these schemes were devised by the emperor, in order to

⁽¹⁾ Proclamation, 5th Nov. 1807. American Register, vol. 3, page 368.

⁽²⁾ Narrative of the practices and machinations which led to the usurpation of the crown of Spain, and the means adopted by the Emperor of the French to carry it into execution. By don Pedro Cevallos, first Secretary of State and Dispatches to his catholic majesty Ferdinand VII. See American Register, vol. 4. State Papers, p. 3.

furnish himself with a plausible pretext for the invasion of the peninsula. But an intrigue of this kind, with its silly plot and counterplot, was neither necessary for Bonaparte's views, nor consistent with his character. He had long been preparing the way for the invasion of Spain. The first step towards the accomplishment of this design was to remove its best troops, and accordingly, in conformity to the treaty, 16,000 men, the flower of the Spanish army, were marched into the north of Germany under the Marquis de Romana. The next business was to introduce the French troops into Spain, and for this the occupation of Portugal furnished a pretext. Could any reliance have been placed either upon the understanding or the honor of the Spanish king, upon royal faith, and the closest ties of alliance, the Portuguese would have reasoned justly in supposing that if at any time, an attack upon them should be meditated, the court of Madrid would use its utmost influence to avert the danger. But Charles IV. was one of the weakest of men, and Godoy his favorite, had obtained the administration for his vices, not for his talents, which were of the lowest order. The interest of this wretch, who exercised the most unbounded influence over a mind verging upon dotage and enslaved by ridiculous passions and slavish pursuits, it might be supposed, had been secured by the title of nobility and a pension from the crown of Portugal, which were conferred upon him by an *Alvara* in 1797. But it was in the power of Bonaparte to offer a higher price for his rapacious villainy, and he united in the plan for the destruction of this kingdom. At the very time when the transactions in the Escorial took place, a secret treaty for the partition of Portugal by the joint forces of France and Spain was signed at Fontainebleau, (27th Oct. 1807,) which was first published to the world by Cevallos.⁽²⁾ To gratify the cupidity of the Prince of Peace a portion of that kingdom equal to about one half, lying on the south, and at present divided into the provinces of Algarve and Alentejo, was to be assigned to him, in absolute sovereignty, with the title of prince of the Algarves.⁽³⁾ This gift was to be in the form of a feudal donation or investiture from Spain to Don Manuel Godoy and his heirs: but, on failure of heirs, it was not to revert to the Spanish crown, but to be again immediately granted to some other, on like conditions. For the other particulars of this extraordinary treaty, in which the contracting powers do not appear to have thought it necessary even to invent a pretext for the justification of so atrocious a design, as well as the secret convention in which the means for reducing the country are settled, we refer to the documents cited.

At the time when this treaty and the annexed convention were concluded, Cevallos held the office of the first Secretary of state. But these negotiations were carried on by Don Eugenio Izquierdo, whose instructions, correspondence, and even his appointment as Plenipotentiary, were never made known to Cevallos, nor to that department of the ministry of which he was the head. The whole transaction was of so suspicious a character, that Bonaparte feared to trust it to the judgment of any persons except those of whose imbecility he was assured. Godoy was deceived by the bait which

was held out to him; and the perfidy of Charles IV. towards his ally and son-in-law, the prince of Brazil, is to be accounted for by his fatuity. In conformity to this treaty, a French army under Junot entered Portugal, and was joined by the stipulated Spanish force. After many ineffectual attempts by concessions and negotiations to avert the storm that so suddenly burst upon him, the prince resolved to abandon his dominions. He accordingly embarked with all his family and many of his faithful friends; and with the whole Portuguese fleet, and the Brazilian ships, sailed for Brazil, to establish his court in that great empire, which Philip II. had offered to one of his ancestors, in independent sovereignty, if he would renounce his right to the crown of Portugal.

One provision of the secret treaty having been thus fulfilled, Godoy was anxiously expecting to be put into possession of his new kingdom of the Algarves. He relied upon the good offices of Murat, the Grand Duke of Berg, with whom he communicated through his agent and confidant Izquierdo, and, if a few millions should be necessary to expedite his wishes, the treasures which he had amassed during his infamous administration enabled him to spare these at command. Murat, however, informed him, that the business was now become very delicate, owing to the extraordinary attachment which the Spaniards had manifested towards the Prince of Asturias, the consideration due to a Princess of the Imperial family, and the part taken by her relation, the Ambassador Beauharnois.—The favorite began to anticipate his fall; he employed every means to ingratiate himself with Murat;—and, fancying that Bonaparte was favourable to the project of the marriage, made the king write to him, and request his consent to it. But Bonaparte chose at this time to keep all parties in suspense, that they might be confused by their own fears;—he assumed an air of displeasure towards Izquierdo, and kept him at a distance, in order to cut off the direct mode of communication; and he set off for Italy, giving to his journey an affected importance which excited the expectations of all Europe. There, carrying into execution those parts of the secret treaty which were to his own advantage, he expelled from Tuscany, the queen regent and her children, and seized all the public funds of a court that was ignorant of the very existence of the treaty, in virtue of which they were called upon to surrender, not only what he had given them, but those dominions which they had possessed before he and his family were banished from Corsica.

From Italy he answered the king's letters: assured him that he had never received any communication from the Prince of Asturias, nor had the slightest information of the circumstances respecting him which those letters imparted; nevertheless, he said, he consented to the proposed intermarriage. In a letter afterwards written to Ferdinand himself, he acknowledged the receipt of that letter which he now denied. Holding out these hopes to the prince, and yet, at the same time, by his long silence, and his reserve towards Izquierdo, keeping him, his father, and the favorite, equally in suspense and alarm, he was, meantime, marching his armies into Spain. That they should enter it, had been stipulated by the secret treaty at Fontainebleau,—and the court was not in a situation to insist upon the condition that the two contending powers were to come to a previous agreement upon that point. Besides, each of the conspicuous personages of the court had been engaged in private negotiations

(2) See Foreign State papers 4 Am. Reg. 27, 28.

(3) The province of Algarba or Algarva was divided into two kingdoms in the Moorish or Arabian times and called the kingdom of the Algarves.

with him, each had probably been amused with specious promises and all dreaded a rupture which might produce an eclat. It is melancholy to pause and reflect upon the steps of this most profligate usurpation: to note the shameful alternations of flattering promises, and ambiguous menaces; of barefaced and unblushing falsehood, and open ferocious violence; by which this bold, cunning and unrelenting conqueror accomplished the first part of his ambitious project. Like the lion hunters of old, he draws his victims on in the course which he had prepared for them, by cajoling and by invitation, by soothing their appetites and exciting their spirit; till at last, by trick and by open violence, the royal beasts were driven into his toils, and placed completely at the disposal of their stern and awful pursuer.

It was essential to his views that he should make himself master of the principal fortresses; and his generals were instructed to obtain possession of them in whatever manner they could. The wretched court, fearing they knew not what, were now punished by their own offences. The treaty into which they had entered for the destruction of Portugal was now turned against themselves. They had neither sense nor courage to take those measures for their own security which the people would so eagerly have seconded; on the contrary they gave the most positive orders that the French should be received every where, and treated even more honorable than the Spanish troops. In consequence of their detestable spirit of tameness or voluntary blindness, the gates of Pamplona, St. Sebastian, Figueras, and Barcelona were thrown open to them.

The next object of these treacherous guests was to get possession of their citadels. On the 16th of February, the citadel of Pamplona was seized by a party of French soldiers, who had gone thither to receive their rations as usual. When they had made themselves masters of the bridges and secured the powder magazines, Darmagnac, who had been selected as the agent of this infamous baseness, had the impudence to address a letter to the magistrates, informing them that as he understood he was to remain some time in Pamplona, he felt himself obliged to ensure its safety in a military manner—and he brought them to consider his garrisoning the citadel as “only a trifling change, incapable of disturbing the harmony which ought to subsist between two faithful allies.” Barcelona was surprised on the same day, by a stratagem equally disgraceful. About 10,000 French troops arrived in the neighborhood of that city on the 13th Feb., and requested permission to halt there and refresh themselves for a few days, on their way to Valencia. The gates were opened and they were received by the people as friends and allies. On the 16th the general was beat; they assembled on the parade as if to proceed upon their march; their hosts and acquaintances came to bid them farewell, and the idlers of the place gathered round to see them depart. On a sudden they fled off in two divisions, one to the citadel, the other to Monjuí, a fort upon the hill which commands the town. Here there was a garrison capable of resisting them; but, the commander had not resolution enough to act up to his duty. The French general insisted that his orders were peremptory, and must be executed. To have resisted would have brought on an immediate attack; and, though the commander could have defended Monjuí, he dared not venture upon an action which would have involved his country in a war with France.

The government of Spain had not virtue enough to know the strength it possessed in such a people as the Spaniards; feeling nothing but its own imbecility, it had not courage to prevent these aggressions, and consequently dared not resent them; and as the French seized these places in the name of their emperor as an ally, this wretched court consented to the occupation of them on the same plea. It will be found,—to digress from our narrative and use the language of one of the ablest writers of the present day, it will be found that the resistance to France has been entirely begun and carried on by the people of Spain. Their kings betrayed them—fled, and rushed, with the whole of their base courtiers, into the arms of the enemy. Their nobles followed; and it is painful to reflect, that some of the most distinguished of this body, after attending Ferdinand to Bayonne, returned in the train of Joseph, and only quitted his service when the universal insurrection of the common people drove him from his usurped throne. The people, then, and, of the people, the middle, and above all, the lower orders, have alone the merit of raising this glorious opposition to a common enemy of national independence. Those who had so little of what is commonly termed *interest* in the country, those who had no *stake* in the community (to speak the technical language of the aristocracy,) the persons of *no consideration* in the state, they who could not pledge their *fortunes* having only lives and liberties to lose, the bulk, the mass of the people, nay, the very odious many-headed beasts, the multitude, the mob itself, alone, unallied, unaided by the higher classes, in despite of these higher classes, and in direct opposition to them, as well as to the enemy whom they so vilely joined: raised up the standard of insurrection, bore it through massacre and through victory, until it chased the usurper away, and waved over his deserted courts. Happen what will in the sequel, here is a grand and permanent success, a lesson to all governments, a warning to all oligarchies, a cheering example to every people. Not a name of any note in Spain was to be seen in the records of the patriotic proceedings, until the cause began to flourish; and then the higher orders came round for their share in the success.

Symptoms of this popular feeling, so generous, so noble and so utterly unlike the spirit of the poltroons and traitors to whom the concerns of the country had been entrusted, first appeared in Barcelona; and the count of Espelleta, captain general of Catalonia, found it necessary to issue a proclamation, (Feb. 29) calling upon all fathers of families, and heads of houses, to preserve tranquility, and thus co-operate with the intentions of their rulers; and declaring that the late transactions did in no way obstruct or alter the system of government, neither did they disturb public nor private order. His proclamation was posted in all parts of the city. Duhesme, however, soon gave the inhabitants new cause for alarm, by calling upon the captain-general to fill the magazines, and establish depots for the subsistence of his troops.

The count of Espelleta returned for his answer to this requisition (March 18) “that the French general might consider the whole city as his magazine: that as he had no enemy to dread, and was quartered there as an ally, the measures which he proposed to take could only create suspicion and distrust, and that if he persisted in an intention so pointed and offensive, it would neither be in the power of the general or himself to remedy the consequences of the sensation which such a measure might excite among the inhabitants.”

It seems at this time to have been Bonaparte's intention that the royal family should fly to their American empire. He might then take possession of the kingdom as left to him by their abdication; and there was no means of ultimately securing Spanish America also, so likely as by letting this family retire thither; both countries would needs be desirous that the intercourse between them should continue; nor were there any Spaniards who would with less reluctance submit to hold it in dependence from him, than those persons who had given so many proofs of abject submission to his will. For the purpose of increasing the fears of Charles and his ministers, he wrote an angry letter complaining in the severest terms of reproach, that no further measures had been taken for negotiating the proposed marriage. The king replied that he was willing that it should take place immediately. He probably considered Bonaparte to be sincere in his intentions of forming this alliance, and never having been fit for business, and now, perhaps for the first time really feeling its cares, a natural wish for repose began to be felt, and a thought of abdication passed his mind. "Maria Louisa" said he to the queen in presence of Cevallos—by whom the curious fact is stated, and all the other ministers of state, "we will retire to one of the provinces where we will pass our days in tranquility, and Ferdinand, who is a young man, will take upon himself the burthen of our government." (5) Whether this abdication was produced by the intrigues of his son, the threats of his faithful ally, or a consciousness of his own imbecility, still remains a mystery, and probably never will be explained, in a satisfactory manner. We are induced to believe that it was a voluntary act. It arose from a thought which the example of his predecessors would readily suggest to a king of Spain. But it was not this which Bonaparte desired. He perceived his victim was not yet sufficiently terrified, and therefore Izquierdo, who had been kept at Paris, in a state of perpetual suspense and agitation, was commanded to return to Spain. No written propositions were sent with him, neither was he to receive any; and he was ordered not to remain longer than three days. Under these circumstances he arrived at Aranjuez, and was immediately conducted by Godoy to the king and queen. What passed in their conference has never transpired; but soon after his departure from Madrid, Charles began to manifest a disposition to abandon Spain, and emigrate to Mexico. If he were capable of feeling any compunctious visitations, how must he have felt at reflecting that he had assisted in driving his kinsman and son-in-law to a similar emigration; that he was now become the victim of his own misconduct; and envying the security which that injured prince had obtained, was himself preparing, in fear and in peril, to follow his example.

Preparations for such a removal could not so easily be made at Madrid and Aranjuez, as at Lisbon.

(5) We have no more doubt that the resignation of Charles was produced by the threats and cabals of Ferdinand, than we have that the resignation of the latter was extorted by the violence and menaces of Bonaparte. There is something not only incredible, but ludicrous, in the story which don Pedro tells, of the free and affectionate resignation of this unfortunate monarch, whom he represents like some sentimental old gentleman in a German comedy, taking his elderly consort by the hand and addressing her in these touching words: "Maria Louisa," &c. Edin. Rev. Oct. 1808.

There was also a wide difference between the circumstances of Spain and Portugal, making that a base action in the sovereign of the former kingdom, which for the last half century, would have been the wisest measure that the house of Braganza could have adopted. The Spaniards were confident in the size and strength of their country, and in the Prince of Asturias and his party they had leaders to whom they were enthusiastically attached.—Great agitation prevailed in the metropolis; the French were rapidly advancing there; the intentions of the royal family were soon suspected, and probably the prince's friends in the ministry, to whom those intentions were necessarily entrusted, spread the alarm abroad. It is said that the Council of Castile was assembled, and that, after a deliberation of six hours, the answer of that house to the king was, that he ought not to leave the country, and that they would not permit him to do so. If such an answer was returned it must have been under the fear of popular opinion. Aranjuez was as much disturbed as Madrid. A decree was posted up, (March 16) in which the king endeavored to remove the suspicions of the people.—"The army of his dear ally the emperor of the French," he said "were traversing his kingdom in peace and friendship, their object being to march to those points which were threatened by the enemy," &c. This did not satisfy the public; the people flocked to Aranjuez; they found the baggage of the court packing up for removal. It was beyond a doubt that their government was on the point of abandoning them, and seeing no better way of saving themselves, they determined to stop them by force and to take vengeance upon Godoy, to whom they imputed all their calamities. They gathered round the house and endeavored to force their way in. His own soldiers were faithful to him and some of the life guards fell in this attempt. His brother don Diego Godoy, came with his regiment of guards to his assistance, and ordered them to fire upon the people; but they refused to obey and suffered him to be disarmed and bound hand and foot. The tumult increased; it was reported that the royal family were about to fly; they were indeed at the time; but when the house of Godoy was forced, it was found that he had escaped, and a party of life guards pursued and overtook him at Ocaña. The princess de la Paz and her daughter were with him; and it is not improbable that their presence preserved him from that vengeance which he had so righteously deserved. They were conducted back and delivered by the populace to the prince of Asturias. (5)

This took place during the night of the 17th. On the following morning the king issued a decree saying, that as he intended to command the army and navy in person, he released Godoy from his employs of generalissimo and admiral, and gave him leave to withdraw whither he pleased. The people were not to be appeased by a measure, the obvious intention of which was to screen the favorite from punishment, and give him an opportunity of effecting his escape. Their agitation still continued; and Charles, the next day, (March 19) by a public decree abdicated the throne. "The complaints," he said, "under which he had long labored would not permit him longer to support the heavy burthen of government; and as it was necessary for the recovery of his health to enjoy the tranquillity of a private life in a more temperate climate, he had de-

(5) "Official account," Sec. 3 Am. Reg. State pap. 369.

terminated after the most serious deliberation to abdicate the crown in favor of his very dear son." He therefore, by this decree of "free and voluntary abdication," made known his royal will, "that the Prince of Asturias should be acknowledged and obeyed as king and national lord of all his kingdoms and 'sovereignties.'" (7)

Politics.

As many persons expect something on *politics*, (as the word is generally understood) in the first number of the REGISTER, supposing it may afford a data whereon to form an opinion of the ground I intend to take; and feeling an earnest desire that a single subscriber shall not be disappointed, though unprepared to discuss a particular subject, I will offer a few general remarks, hoping they may meet the wishes of my friends and patrons; premising, in order that I may not be saddled with the sins of others (assured I shall have enough of my own to bear) that I intend to make it a rule to annex my own proper signature or at least the initials of my name, to every article of this description I may write and publish. The procedure may be thought too pompous by some, and condemned as dictatorial by others—but I have my reasons for it, and feel very confident that what I have to say will not be one jot or tittle the better for being signed *Cincinnatus*, or *Thales*, or *Washington*, or *Franklin*. It is the fashion, to be sure, to attach great names to little pieces. I would reverse the practice, if I could. The ass was chiefly despised for *pretending* to be a lion.

The letter and spirit of the prospectus, shall, as far as my better judgment can direct me, be strictly adhered to—nay, so far will I carry its spirit, that if I myself shall advance opinions not generally held as truly *American*, I will not only insert a replication thereto, but search for and select the best written articles I can find on the subject, in opposition. Let it not be inferred from this that I suppose myself capable of withstanding all and any opposition that may possibly arise. I only mean that the matter may be fairly argued, devoid of personalities and indiscriminate censures. If a literary colossus assails me, I will seek a match for him. If he proves me incorrect, my position shall be abandoned. This is what I call a "broad, liberal and independent basis;" and however strange the prospect may appear, I believe it practicable, seeing I have no particular object, as to this man or that man, to accomplish. But essays, likely to produce such contention will rarely, if ever, be written and published by me. I desire to print a work useful to all, rather than promotive of the interests of a part.

As to our relations at home—Every feeling of my heart is enlisted to preserve the liberties of my country, as laid down in the *declaration of independence*, and secured by the *CONSTITUTION*. I venerate the good man who drafted that memorable instrument, and know not how sufficiently to admire his great compatriots in the work of revolution. I believe that *declaration* cannot be too often read and studied; as well to put us in mind of what we were, and make us sensible of what we are, as to teach us to appreciate the blessings of freedom, and rights of self government. And I cannot consider that man a friend to this country who pronounces it a "*mixed thing*," or would, in any manner, prevent a frequent reference to it. For the fathers of the

land who framed the *constitution* I have the utmost respect; and will manifest it, in supporting, to the utmost of my power, the great principles they established to preserve the integrity of the republic, and administer to the felicities of its numerous and increasing people. If I can do no more, I will do this—I will obey the dictate of *WASHINGTON*, and "*from indigently on the first dawning of an attempt to alienate any portion of this country from the rest, or enfeeble the sacred ties which now link its various parts,*" and account that man as half a traitor or two thirds a fool, who would create "*Geographical discriminations*" in the body politic. Some persons pretend to fear this government cannot stand. I believe those who express such a fear do not wish it to stand. There is a certain rankling aristocracy too generally prevalent in the human breast, that prompts us to think ourselves superior to our fellows. From the time that government began there has existed two parties in every country, and they will exist till man receives a new heart; though, in some places, the public reason may controul them more than in others. Those parties contain, 1st, The men who labor,—no matter at what business or profession—2nd, those who do not, or desire to live on the labor of others. The first is struggling for a relief of their burthens and cares—the second is as anxious to keep themself as they are, or exalt their condition; and hence perpetual war. Let us examine the matter and ourselves, carefully, and see if it is not so—and when we find a man "*de-pairing of the republic,*" or, by vile insinuation, attempting to undermine the faith the people put in it, probe him to the quick; he will be found seeking for something—some post of honor, profit or emolument, or degree of consideration among the people he does not then possess. He belongs to the *aristocratic* party, though he may call himself by what name he pleases. "I believe this the strongest government on earth, I believe it the only one were every man at the call of the law, would fly to the standard of the law, and would meet invasions of the public order as his own personal concern. Sometimes it is said that man cannot be trusted with the government of himself. Can he then be trusted with the government of others? or have we found angels in the form of kings to govern him?—Let history answer the question."*

It is true, that our great men, like the planets, have their satellites revolving round them—moving as they move, and adopting all their opinions—and thus, perhaps, some really honest well-meaning men may believe a republican system of government incompatible with the power necessary to its own preservation. I pity the weakness of such men; their posterity will not think so. Our fathers were accustomed to speak of kings and lords as angels—some of the old *lawen* remains, but most Americans believe them to be among the weakest, most abandoned and vilest of mankind, and so they are. The "*great commoner*," *William Pitt*, who "*sunk into insignificance and an earldom*,"† used to call the British house of lords, "*A hospital of incurables*" and I have heard the venerable author of the *Pennsylvania Farmer's* letters say, he did not believe there ever were congregated, in a legislative capacity, so vile, so wretched and ignorant a body of men as this self same house of lords. If we travel to France we find nothing better—what may not be said of the *Legion of honor*?

(7) "Official account," &c. 3. Am. Reg. State pop. 369.

* Jefferson's manuscript address.
† Nicknamed Lord Chatham.

Again, it is said, "our country is too large for a republic." Why so?—Is *Russia*, three times as large, more happily governed?—Whence comes the opinion? The *Roman* commonwealth was destroyed; but not from the extent of the territory.—*Rome* had nothing like our confederation in the constitution of her government—a city, it may be said, gave the law to a world. There was no representation to bring to a common focus the feelings and interests of the widely distributed parts—there were no state sovereignties to preside over the local concerns of the people. Their elections were civil wars; and the army generally decided contested points between her ambitious citizens:—yet liberty was not destroyed until the jealousy of her rulers had deprived the people of the use of arms—and then, indeed, despotism had its full sway. With us every citizen is constitutionally a soldier, and may the fate of Haman be his who shall plot to deprive him of the inestimable privilege of bearing arms. Yet something else is necessary—a general diffusion of knowledge in the establishment of schools.

It has for many years been a serious question in enlightened England, whether it is sound policy to teach the poor to read and write; and the magnanimous emperor of France, improving upon the hint, will not suffer a sufficient quantity of presses in his dominions to supply his people with mere school books, though they worked night and day.* If a man in the United States, were to attempt to reason soberly on the impropriety of general education in a political point of view (or, indeed, in any other) we would put him down for a madman or fool, without any ceremony. But in England, many grave and reverend gentlemen, holding high places in the church and state, and distinguished for their talents, have protested against instructing the common people, lest "they may become proud and no longer submit to the drudgery they patiently bear in ignorance!" What sort of government must that be where such opinions are tolerated, and, perhaps, found necessary? In continental Europe the state of things is far worse. *Napoleon* declares, in the most public manner, that his subjects shall not possess information—that they shall not be instructed; and, from a knowledge of facts obtained through the experience of others, correct their own understanding, and lead to an amelioration of their condition. He intends they shall be slaves; and to be good slaves, they must be ignorant. Time has been when a man that could read and write was regarded as a suspicious character—an enemy of "order and regular government." The time seems fast approaching, in Europe, (nay, perhaps, now is,) when to reason will be accounted a high misdemeanor. There are some persons in the United States who affect to believe it unfit for the common people to examine the conduct of their rulers—but their number is as few as their doctrine is contemptible.

I thank heaven there are not many native citizens of the United States who cannot read and write, and that most of them reflect on the measures of government. To do so is a moral obligation of the highest importance, as well as a constitutional duty. At stated periods, not far distant from each other, they have full opportunity to give effect to their conclusions—at the polls the feeblest voice is heard and the verdict is final. It is true, the people may be led away for the moment—but as the safety of the state is every man's personal concern, and as I cannot believe "the people are their own worst enemies," the attraction of deception passes away, and truth.

* We intend to publish this Gothic decree—from actual calculation the above is literally correct.

being the needle of their compass, settles at the proper point.

Thus, without expecting it, I have been led to a long dissertation, and must defer some remarks on our foreign relations until another time. As to foreign nations, say *Great Britain* and *France*, for all are nearly swallowed up in the influence of one or the other, I will merely observe—that I consider the former as governed by a set of [political] *knaves* and the latter by a single one. Which of the two is preferable has not entered into my calculation.—But there are a few points as to our domestic affairs on which it becomes me to say something.

In several parts of the United States, particularly on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and in the states of Kentucky and Ohio, an idea has gone forth that the WEEKLY REGISTER was intended to oppose Mr. Madison and support the ex-secretary, Mr. R. Smith. The rumor has prevented many subscriptions, and been of no small detriment to me, though destitute of the slightest foundation on truth. I do not intend to oppose or support any man,* much less to take part in the squabbles of individuals, though principles shall be discussed. On the late difference between these gentlemen I have had but one opinion which was, and is, that Mr. Madison was perfectly justifiable in dismissing Mr. Smith; he, being responsible to the people for the conduct of the executive, was unquestionably right in not permitting himself to be dictated to, and in restoring harmony to the different departments of government. I believe that Mr. Smith, or any other man thinking him self aggrieved, has a right to vindicate or justify himself "at the bar of the public reason"—but of the manner and time in which he did it, I have always expressed the most unqualified disapprobation; nor am I pleased with the matter itself, many things being highly exceptionable. In general, as an individual, I approve the measures of government; but things have been done I could not support, and others may be committed I shall not subscribe to, I will attach myself, as an editor, to no party but the PEOPLE'S PARTY, whose wish is "peace, liberty and safety." H. N.

"The Western Country."

LORD SHEFFIELD'S ideas on commerce with his views of the United States of America, have received the force of oracles in England. He may be considered as one of the fathers (if not the father) of the present British system of blockading whole coasts by pieces of paper; in defiance of national law and moral justice, to coerce a monopoly of the trade of the world, or at least force its commodities through their own ports. Unfortunately for the rights of neutrality their great rival in rapacity, the ruler of continental Europe, has so completely seconded their views by his outrageous decrees, that neutral trade is destroyed, or pursued at a general loss. But this is foreign to our present subject—we meant only to notice one of his lordship's views of the United States, at this time; the British ministry appearing to see as he did, and, in defiance of innumerable and palpable facts, refusing to be convinced of the real state of things amongst us.

In his lordship's book, written just after the close of our revolutionary war, entitled "*Observations on the commerce of the American States*" (which we may have some further occasion to notice hereafter,) a constant disposition is manifested to depress the American character, and derogate the natural ad-

* Myself, "always excepted."

vantages our country enjoys, as well as the expence of probability as of truth: leading his fellow-subjects into gross errors, to prevent emigration, retard the increase of population, and obstruct the establishment of manufactures.

His lordship takes frequent opportunity to assure his readers, "that settlers beyond the Alleghany mountains cannot become commercial;" well knowing that to commerce (*i. e.* foreign commerce) his countrymen are apt to connect every idea of prosperity; for his lordship had heard there were rich and fertile lands to be had on very reasonable terms, in our "western country," but would prove them of little use, and that they never can be thickly populated from the impossibility of finding a vent for their produce. His lordship's lofty objects are distinctly known; they furnish full proof of his loyalty, if they afford nothing in favor of his discernment or love of truth.

About 27 years have elapsed since lord Sheffield made his book. The state of Ohio was then a mere wilderness, and, indeed, most of the present thickly populated places on the western waters, not much better. The many powerful streams which intersect that delightful country bore on the bosoms of their waters only the solitary canoe of the indian, stealing along their banks in quest of his game. But Ohio, by the census last taken, was found to contain 230,849 inhabitants; its waters are enlivened by the appearance of majestic ships, *bound to the sea*: the yell of the savage had given place to the cheerful note of the sailor; while hundreds of large boats, holding their *adverse* courses, manifest the magnitude of the commerce of the country, and assure to the husbandman a market for his productions, as well as a supply of those articles of foreign produce which his want demands or luxury requires. Twenty-two years since there were not 100 white persons in the country now forming the state of Ohio—it was an impenetrable forest: last year its inhabitants manufactured two millions of yards of woolen, flaxen and cotton cloth, more than one million of gallons of whiskey, upwards of thirteen millions of pounds of sugar, with many other articles forming an aggregate value equal to two millions and a quarter of dollars. About fifteen years ago the writer of this article recollects to have heard that celebrated mechanic, Mr. Oliver Evans, give an opinion that the man was then living who might see the Missis-

sippi and its tributary streams covered with hundreds of steam boats. The sentiment, from the novelty of the idea, appeared extravagant at the time; but from what has happened, and is daily coming to pass, it assumes probability, and may be verified in its fullest extent, at a very early period. The western country is receiving an unprecedented increase of wealth and population; and the native obstructions to such navigation will be removed as the commerce of the waters rises to its ultimate importance.

We reserve to ourselves some more lengthy remarks on this subject, the preceding being intended only to introduce the following interesting statement:

Louisville, (Ken.) May 31, 1811.—The following is an estimate of their boats and the loading, which passed the falls of Ohio, from October 5, 1810, to May 5, 1811.

Boats	number	743	Cider-royal barrels	1,350
Flour	barrels	129,453	Lard	pounds 465,312
Bacon	pounds	604,810	Onions	barrels 218
Whiskey	barrels	9,477	Potatoes	bushels 1,811
Cider	ditto	2,513	Hemp	cwt. 630,562
Pork	ditto	13,562	Dry fruit	barrels 263
Apples	ditto	2,513	Yarn & $\frac{1}{2}$	pounds 113,015
Oats	bushels	4,020	Cordage	yards 2,592
Corn	ditto	47,795	Fowls	number 1,267,333
Merchandise		\$ 355,624	Shoe thread	various 2,592
Cheese	barrels	5,111	Country	yards 8,140
Beans	ditto	606	linen	
Plank	feet	1,483,130	Horses	number 292
Butter	pounds	24,691	Beer	barrels 227
Live hogs	number	708	Tobacco	hds. 2,311

And an number of articles too tedious to be calculated. A Mr. Bowman, a pilot at Jeffersonville, took 106 boats over the falls of the Ohio, during the aforesaid period of whose cargoes no notice is taken in the above.

The foregoing is a return made by the regular pilots, who all agree in stating that during the high water at least one-third as many more passed without their assistance. This estimate, therefore, gives the whole probable number of boats that passed the Falls at nearly 1200, waiving the rich produce of the western parts of Pennsylvania, and Virginia with those of the state of Ohio and a part of Kentucky, to the markets on the sea-board. WHAT A PROSPECT!

TOTAL EXPENSES

Of the War for Independence, with a Statement of all the Troops in the Continental Service.

STATES.	REGULARS RAISED IN THE YEARS									Treasury payments.	
	1775	1776	1777	1778	1779	1780	1781	1782	1783	Year.	Specie value
New-Hampshire	2,824	3,019	1,173	1,283	1,004	1,017	700	744	738		
Massachusetts	16,444	13,372	7,816	7,010	6,287	4,453	3,732	4,423	4,370	1775	
Rhode-Island	1,193	798	848	630	507	915	454	481	372	1776	20,064,660
Connecticut	4,497	6,390	4,563	4,010	3,544	3,133	2,420	1,732	1,740	1777	21,266,438
New-York	2,075	3,629	1,903	2,194	2,256	2,179	1,178	1,168	1,168	1778	24,986,438
New-Jersey		3,193	1,408	1,586	1,276	1,105	823	660	675	1779	10,794,625
Pennsylvania	500	5,519	4,983	3,684	3,476	3,337	1,346	1,286	1,308	1780	6,600,000
Delaware		609	209	349	317	325	89	161	236	1781	1,942,462
Maryland		637	2,030	3,307	2,849	2,065	770	1,236	978	1782	3,631,745
Virginia		6,181	5,744	5,236	3,973	2,486	1,225	1,604	629	1783	3,226,598
N. Carolina		1,134	1,281	1,287	1,214		545	1,105	697	1783	548,520
S. Carolina		2,069	1,650	1,651	909				139		
Georgia		351	1,423	673	87				145		
Total, in pay	27,443	46,891	31,820	32,899	27,699	21,015	13,280	14,250	13,470	Total	92,485,690
Total, serviceable in camp	15,000	25,000	26,000	19,000	18,000	19,000	10,000	11,000	12,000	Sum of dries	42,708,609
										Specie	135,193,702

BLDG:ET.

Population of England and Wales according to the Census of 1801.

COUNTIES.	HOUSES.		PERSONS.		OCCUPATIONS.				TOTAL OF PERSONS
	Inhabited.	Uninhabited.	Males.	Females.	Persons chiefly employed in agriculture.	Persons chiefly employed in Trade, Manufacture, or Handicraft.	All other Persons not comprised in the two preceding Classes.		
Bedford - -	11,888	185	30,523	32,870	18,760	13,816	28,789		63,383
Berks - -	20,573	622	52,821	56,394	38,155	16,921	51,463		109,215
Buckingham -	20,443	543	52,094	55,350	25,083	20,136	54,959		107,444
Cambridge -	16,139	312	44,081	45,265	28,054	11,588	46,369		89,346
Chester - -	34,482	1,159	92,759	98,992	38,823	67,447	83,031		194,751
Cornwall - -	32,906	1,472	89,868	98,401	42,787	24,870	111,275		188,269
Cumberland -	21,573	872	54,377	62,853	21,002	18,387	75,978		117,230
Derby - -	31,822	1,369	79,401	81,741	31,743	39,516	88,768		161,142
Devon - -	57,955	3,253	157,240	185,761	93,208	60,844	185,835		343,001
Dorset - -	21,437	823	53,607	61,652	28,205	22,259	63,422		115,319
Durham - -	27,195	1,171	74,770	85,951	18,217	25,208	104,140		160,381
Essex - -	33,371	1,027	111,256	115,081	65,174	25,283	112,993		226,437
Gloucester -	46,457	1,715	117,180	133,629	49,420	49,645	143,437		250,809
Hereford - -	17,003	941	43,955	45,233	31,281	6,588	48,857		89,191
Hertford - -	17,681	491	48,063	49,514	20,611	12,861	62,858		97,577
Huntingdon -	6,821	135	18,521	19,047	9,536	4,484	20,565		37,568
Kent - -	51,585	1,413	151,374	156,250	54,124	43,255	198,610		307,624
Lancaster - -	114,270	3,394	323,356	350,373	52,018	269,259	318,712		672,731
Leicester - -	25,992	742	63,913	66,133	23,823	42,036	55,334		130,081
Lincoln - -	41,395	1,092	102,135	106,112	60,582	24,263	119,260		208,557
Middlesex - -	112,912	5,171	373,655	444,474	15,417	182,260	320,009		818,129
Monmouth - -	8,948	417	22,163	23,409	12,871	5,540	25,217		45,582
Norfolk - -	47,617	1,523	129,842	143,529	61,791	38,181	160,313		373,371
Northampton -	28,665	736	63,417	68,340	29,303	31,426	60,563		131,757
Northumberland	26,518	1,534	73,357	83,744	23,190	25,738	100,285		157,101
Nottingham -	25,611	542	68,558	71,792	23,904	35,513	74,585		140,350
Oxford - -	20,599	584	59,786	55,837	33,109	16,346	57,550		109,620
Rutland - -	3,274	87	7,978	8,378	3,995	1,923	10,438		16,356
Salop - -	31,182	929	82,563	85,076	45,046	33,535	70,359		167,639
Somerset - -	48,040	2,136	126,927	146,823	61,434	54,053	154,092		273,750
Southampton -	38,315	912	105,667	113,989	50,696	30,303	112,599		219,656
Stafford - -	45,198	1,995	119,698	120,455	43,930	72,465	105,177		239,153
Suffolk - -	32,253	552	101,091	109,340	54,744	34,061	113,692		210,431
Surry - -	46,072	1,514	127,739	141,905	2,746	42,865	190,685		269,043
Sussex - -	25,272	721	78,797	80,514	35,925	19,608	86,339		159,311
Warwick - -	40,847	2,936	99,942	108,248	34,756	91,922	74,069		268,190
Westmorland -	7,897	315	20,175	21,442	12,141	8,673	19,633		41,617
Wilts - -	29,462	1,127	87,380	97,727	53,517	39,422	62,360		185,107
Worcester - -	26,711	1,109	67,631	71,702	38,865	30,230	54,537		139,333
York, East Riding	25,781	651	67,457	71,976	31,538	22,003	53,911		139,438
—, N. Riding	31,512	1,014	74,904	80,602	44,061	26,207	82,732		155,506
—, W. Riding	111,146	4,725	276,005	287,948	55,693	164,188	338,196		565,953
Total, England.	1,467,870	53,962	3,987,935	4,343,499	1,524,227	1,789,531	4,606,530		8,331,434
WALES.									
Anglesey - -	6,679	127	15,775	18,031	9,766	2,614	19,228		33,806
Brecon - -	6,315	479	15,393	16,240	14,346	4,204	11,864		31,633
Cardigan - -	8,819	221	20,468	22,542	16,511	2,896	23,497		42,956
Carmarthen -	13,149	371	31,439	35,878	32,862	4,343	29,672		67,317
Carvernon - -	8,304	129	19,886	21,935	12,808	4,234	17,342		41,321
Denbigh - -	12,621	427	29,247	31,105	21,104	6,960	25,747		60,352
Flint - -	7,585	194	19,377	20,045	10,532	6,988	20,536		39,622
Glamorgan - -	14,225	457	34,199	37,335	18,515	6,903	39,964		71,525
Merioneth - -	5,787	193	13,896	15,610	10,308	2,711	16,398		29,506
Montgomery -	8,725	223	22,914	25,064	13,802	6,233	25,561		47,078
Pembroke - -	11,899	308	25,406	30,874	20,688	4,846	30,075		56,280
Radnor - -	3,675	212	9,347	9,703	8,620	889	6,689		19,050
Total, Wales	108,053	3,511	257,178	284,288	189,062	53,822	266,573		549,656
Army, Navy, &c.			470,598						470,598
Total E. & W.	1,575,923	57,473	4,715,711	5,227,867	1,713,289	1,843,353	4,873,103		9,330,578

Public Papers.

At commencing the publication of state papers we are naturally led to those which immediately belong to the transformation of the "British colonies in America" into "free, sovereign and independent states," to be followed by the constitution of the United States, and a complete analysis of the several constitutions of the different states—the importance of these articles, as matters of reference, is too manifest to demand a remark.

The following circular letter from the speaker of the house of representatives of the "province of Massachusetts-Bay," addressed to the speakers of the legislatures of the other provinces, gave rise to the FIRST AMERICAN CONGRESS.

SIR,—The house of representatives of this province, in the present session of the general court, have unanimously agreed to propose a meeting, as soon as may be, of committees from the house of representatives or burgesses of the several British colonies on this continent, to consult together on the present circumstances of the colonies, and the difficulties to which they are, and must be reduced, by the operation of the acts of parliament for levying duties and taxes on the colonies; and to consider of a general and united, dutiful, loyal and humble representation of their condition, to his majesty and the parliament, and to implore relief. The house of representatives of this province have also voted to propose, that such meeting be at the city of New-York, in the province of New-York, on the first Tuesday in October next; and have appointed a committee of three of their members to attend that service, with such as the other houses of representatives, or burgesses, in the several colonies, may think fit to appoint to meet them. And the committee of the house of representatives of this province, are directed to repair to said New-York, on said first Tuesday in October next, accordingly.

If, therefore, your honorable house should agree to this proposal, it would be acceptable that as early notice of it as possible might be transmitted to the speaker of the house of representatives of this province.

In consequence of the preceding circular, a meeting of delegates from Massachusetts-Bay, Connecticut, Rhode-Island, and Providence Plantations, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the government of the counties of Newcastle, Kent and Sussex, upon Delaware, the province of Maryland and South Carolina, was held at New-York; and, on the 19th of October 1765, they agreed to the following "declaration of the rights of the colonists of America." [The number of delegates were only twenty-eight. Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia were prevented by their governors from sending deputies to this congress; but afterwards forwarded petitions to the king, lords and commons similar to those adopted by it.

Declaration of the rights of the colonists of America, as agreed to by the first American congress at New-York, October 19, 1765.

The members of this congress, sincerely devoted with the warmest sentiments of affection and duty, to his majesty's personal government—inviolably attached to the present happy establishment of the protestant succession; and with minds deeply impressed by a sense of the present and impending misfortunes of the British colonies on this continent—it being considered, as maturely as time will permit, the circumstances of the said colonies, esteem it our indispensable duty to make the following

declarations of our humble opinion, respecting the most essential rights and liberties of the colonists, and of the grievances under which they labor, by reason of several late acts of parliament.

I. That his majesty's subjects in these colonies, owe the same allegiance to the crown of Great Britain, that is owing from his subjects born within the realm, and all due subordination to that august body, the parliament of Great Britain.

II. That his majesty's liege subjects in these colonies are entitled to all the inherent rights and liberties of his natural born subjects, within the kingdom of Great Britain.

III. That it is inseparably essential to the freedom of a people, and the undoubted right of Englishmen, that no taxes be imposed on them but with their own consent, given personally or by their representatives.

IV. That the people of these colonies are not, and, from their local circumstances, cannot be, represented in the house of commons in G. Britain.

V. That the only representatives of the people of these colonies are persons chosen therein by themselves; and that no taxes ever have been, or can be constitutionally imposed on them, but by their respective legislatures.

VI. That all supplies to the crown being free gifts of the people; it is unreasonable and inconsistent with the principles and spirit of the British constitution, for the people of Great Britain to grant to his majesty the property of the colonists.

VII. That the trial by jury, is the inherent and inviolable right of every British subject in these colonies.

VIII. That the late act of parliament, entitled, "an act for granting and applying certain stamp duties, and other duties, in the British colonies and plantations in America," &c. by imposing taxes on the inhabitants of these colonies, and the said act, and several other acts, by extending the jurisdiction of the courts of admiralty beyond its ancient limits, have a manifest tendency to subvert the rights and liberties of the colonists.

IX. That the duties imposed by several late acts of parliament, from the peculiar circumstances of these colonies, will be extremely burdensome and grievous; and, from the scarcity of specie, the payment of them absolutely impracticable.

X. That as the profits of the trade of these colonies ultimately centre in Great Britain, to pay for the manufactures which they are obliged to take from thence, they eventually contribute very largely to all supplies granted there to the crown.

XI. That the restrictions imposed by several late acts of parliament on the trade of these colonies, will render them unable to purchase the manufactures of Great Britain.

XII. That the increase, prosperity and happiness of these colonies, depend on the full and free enjoyment of their rights and liberties, and an intercourse with Great Britain, mutually affectionate and advantageous.

XIII. That it is the right of the British subjects in these colonies to petition the king, or either house of parliament.

Lastly, That it is the indispensable duty of these colonies, to the best of sovereigns, to the mother country, and to themselves, to endeavor by a loyal and dutiful address to his majesty, and humble application to both houses of parliament, to procure the repeal of the act for granting and applying certain stamp duties, of all clauses of any other act of parliament, whereby the jurisdiction of the admiralty is extended as aforesaid, and of the other late acts for the restriction of American commerce.

After publishing this declaration, and petitioning the king, lords and commons, separately, for a redress of grievances, and transacting such other general business as the exigencies of the moment appeared to demand, the first congress dissolved itself. The stamp act was repealed: but a constant disposition being manifested to "tax the colonies without the consent of their immediate representatives," after a variety of incidents which belong to the history of our country, a more general meeting of deputies from the several colonies met at Philadelphia early in September 1774, constituted by fifty-one delegates, all the colonies being represented except *Georgia*, then willing but too weak to take part in the events of the times. The first act of this congress was to approve the opposition made by the people of *Massachusetts* to the British government; and, after recommending supplies to the suffering inhabitants of Boston, and writing a spirited letter or remonstrance to gen. Gage, the British commander in chief, they published the following

Declaration of Rights.

The good people of the several colonies of New-Hampshire, *Massachusetts*-Bay, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, New-Castle, Kent and Sussex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and South-Carolina, alarmed at the arbitrary proceedings of the British parliament and administration, having severally elected deputies to meet and sit in general congress in the city of Philadelphia, and those deputies so chosen being assembled on the 5th day of September, after settling several necessary preliminaries, proceeded to take into their most serious consideration the best means of obtaining the redress of grievances. In the first place, they, as Englishmen, (and as their ancestors in like cases, have usually done, for asserting and vindicating their rights and liberties), DECLARE,

That the inhabitants of the English colonies in North America, by the immutable laws of nature, the principles of the English constitution, and the several charters or compacts, have the following rights:

Resolved, *nem. con.* 1. That they are entitled to life, liberty and property; and have never ceded, to any sovereign power whatever, a right to dispose of either without their consent.

Resolved, *n. c.* 2. That our ancestors were, at the time of their emigration from the mother country, entitled to all the rights, liberties, and immunities, of free and natural-born subjects within the realm of England.

Resolved, *n. c.* 3. That by such emigration they neither forfeited, surrendered nor lost, any of those rights.

Resolved, *n. c.* 4. That the foundation of English liberty, and of all free governments, is a right in the people to participate in their legislative council: and as the English colonists are not represented, and, from their local and other circumstances, cannot properly be represented in the British parliament, they are entitled to a free and exclusive power of legislation, in their several provincial legislatures, where their right of representation can only be preserved, in all cases of taxation and internal polity, subject only to the negative of their sovereign, in such manner as has been heretofore used and accustomed: but, from the necessity of the case, and a regard to the mutual interests of both countries, we cheerfully consent to the operation of such acts of the British parliament as are,

bona fide, restrained to the regulation of our external commerce, for the purpose of securing the commercial advantages of the whole empire to the mother-country, and the commercial benefits of its respective members, excluding every idea of taxation, internal or external, for raising a revenue, on the subjects in America without their consent.

Resolved, *n. c.* 5. That the respective colonies are intitled to the common law of England, and more especially, to the great and inestimable privilege of being tried by their peers of the vicinage, according to the course of that law.

Resolved, 6. That they are entitled to the benefit of such of the English statutes as existed at the time of their colonization, and which they have, by experience, respectively found to be applicable to their several local and other circumstances.

Resolved, *n. c.* 7. That these his majesty's colonies, are likewise entitled to all the immunities and privileges, granted and confirmed to them by royal charters, or secured by their several codes of provincial laws.

Resolved, *n. c.* 8. That they have a right peaceably to assemble, consider of their grievances, and petition the king: and that all prosecutions, prohibitory proclamations, and commitments for the same, are illegal.

Resolved, *n. c.* 9. That the keeping a standing army in these colonies, in time of peace, without the consent of the legislature of that colony in which such army is kept, is against law.

Resolved, *n. c.* 10. It is indispensably necessary to good government, and rendered essential by the English constitution, that the constituent branches of the legislature be independent of each other; that, therefore, the exercise of the legislative power, in several colonies, by a council appointed during pleasure by the crown, is unconstitutional, dangerous, and destructive to the freedom of American legislation.

All and each of which, the aforesaid deputies, in behalf of themselves and their constituents, do claim, demand, and insist on, as their indubitable rights and liberties, which cannot be legally taken from them, altered or abridged by any power whatever, without their own consent, by their representatives in their several provincial legislatures.

Resolved, *n. c.* That the following acts of parliament are infringements and violations of the rights of the colonists; and that the repeal of them is essentially necessary, in order to restore harmony between Great Britain and the American colonies, viz.

The several acts of 4 Geo. III. ch. 15, and ch. 34.—5 Geo. III. ch. 25.—6 Geo. III. ch. 53.—7 Geo. III. ch. 41. and ch. 46.—8 Geo. III. ch. 22. which impose duties for the purpose of raising a revenue in America, extend the powers of the admiralty courts beyond their ancient limits, deprive the American subject of a trial by jury, authorise the judges' certificate to indemnify the prosecutor from damages that he might otherwise be liable to, requiring oppressive security from a claimant of ships and goods seized, before he shall be allowed to defend his property, and are subversive of American rights.

Also 12 Geo. III. ch. 24, intitled, "An act for the better securing his majesty's dock yards, magazines, ships, ammunition and stores;" which declares a new offence in America, and deprives American subjects of a constitutional trial by jury of the vicinage, by authorising the trial of any person charged with the committing any offence described

in the said act out of the realm, to be indicted and tried for the same in any shire or country within the realm.

Also the three acts passed in the last session of parliament, for stopping the port and blocking up the harbour of Boston, for altering the charter and government of Massachusetts Bay, and that which is entitled, "An Act for the better administration of justice &c."

Also the act passed in the same session for establishing the Roman Catholic religion in the Province of Quebec, abolishing the equitable system of English laws, and erecting a tyranny there, to the great danger, from so total a dissimilarity of religion, law, and government, of the neighboring British colonies, by the assistance of whose blood and treasure the said country was conquered from France.

Also the act passed in the same session for the better providing suitable quarters for officers and soldiers in his majesty's service in North America.

Resolved, That this congress do approve of the opposition made by the inhabitants of the Massachusetts-Bay, to the execution of the said late acts of parliament; and if the same shall be attempted to be carried into execution by force, in such case, all America ought to support them in their opposition.

Resolved, That the removal of the people of Boston into the country, would be not only extremely difficult in the execution, but so important in its consequences, as to require the utmost deliberation before it is adopted. But in case the provincial meeting of that colony shall judge it absolutely necessary, it is the opinion of this congress, that all America ought to contribute towards recompensing them for the injury they may thereby sustain.

Resolved, That this congress do recommend to the inhabitants of Massachusetts-Bay, to submit to a suspension of the administration of justice, where it cannot be procured in a legal and peaceable manner, under the rules of the charter, and the laws founded thereon, until the effects of our application for the repeal of the acts by which their charter-rights are infringed, is known.

Resolved unanimously, That every person who shall take, accept, or act under any commission or authority, in any wise derived from the act passed in the last session of parliament, changing the form of government, and violating the charter of the province of Massachusetts-Bay, ought to be held in detestation, and considered as the wicked tool of that despotism which is preparing to destroy those rights which God, nature, and compact, hath given to America.

Resolved unanimously, That the people of Boston of the province of Massachusetts Bay, be advised to conduct themselves peaceably towards his excellency general Gage, and his majesty's troops now stationed in the town of Boston, as far as can possibly consist with their immediate safety and the security of the town; avoiding and discountenancing every violation of his majesty's property, or any insult to his troops; and that they peaceably and firmly persevere in the line in which they are now conducting themselves on the defensive.

Resolved, that the seizing, or attempting to seize, any person in America, in order to transport such person beyond the sea, for trial of offences, committed within the body of a country in America, being against law, will justify, and ought to meet with resistance and reprisal.

(Documents to be continued.)

Geography.

[The chief object in this department of our work shall be to present our readers with faithful and comprehensive abstracts of new and approved publications on this useful and interesting subject; adapted to the wants of our readers, generally; in all cases sufficient to give a correct idea of the chief things treated of by the author under consideration, and also detail as full a description of the country as most persons require for common use. Many considerations have induced us to commence with the Baron Humboldt's account of Mexico or New Spain—to whose relation, justly celebrated as it is, we have nevertheless added a few facts and remarks from several other authors. These additions are made in the form of notes, or enclosed in brackets.]

MEXICO, OR NEW SPAIN.

From the vast importance this country is daily acquiring in the eyes of the politician, and from a want of information as to its wealth, strength and resources, the public, with uncommon avidity, received an account of it from the pen of so celebrated a traveller and nice observer of things, as the *Baron de Humboldt*. Of his work entitled a "Political essay on the kingdom of New Spain," the following is an analysis. It is by no means our present intention to go into a detail of the original discovery and conquest of Mexico which would lead to a recital of cruelties and crimes disgraceful to human nature; sufficient it is to say it was made a province of Spain by the daring intrepidity of *Hernando Cortez*, very early in the 16th century, under the reign of Charles V. Mexico, the capital of the empire, was at that time a large, populous and powerful city, and had the state been governed by a princeless weak and pusillanimous than *Montezuma*, it might have withstood an army of Spaniards twenty times more numerous than the little band *Cortez* brought against it, though assisted as he was by large bodies of allies, natives of the country, impatient under the yoke of the Emperor, and regarding the Europeans as Gods.

The country now called Mexico or New Spain, includes a much greater extent of territory than the former empire of *Montezuma*, which, according to the *Abbe Clavigero* (a native of the country) was bounded on the eastern coast by the rivers *Guaacualco* and *Tuspan*, and on the west by the plains of *Socomuco* and the port of *Zacatula*, including only the present intendancies of Vera Cruz, Oaxaca, la Puebla, Mexico and Valladolid, the area of which is estimated at about 5,000 square leagues.

When we contemplate the situation, uncommon fertility, and rich mineral productions of this extensive and delightful region of the earth, we must cease to be surprised that the bold and comprehensive views of a citizen of the United States pointed it out as a proper field for the exercise of his daring ambition; that the fascinating picture he was so fully able to draw of the country could induce many spirits, "above the dull pursuits of civil life," to embark in his enterprise, however problematical of final success—for the strength of Mexico is much greater, and its means of defence far more powerful, than we have been accustomed to esteem it, as will

† The Creoles—Spanish Americans—i. e. the descendants of Spaniards born in the country, frequently give this appellation to European Spaniards with great contempt, from their arrogant assumptions and intolerable pride.

be seen by the sequel. But the kingdom of Mexico furnishes an extraordinary proof of the wide difference between the peaceful and humane policy of the American republic, and that insatiate avarice which seems to be the great spring of action in monarchical governments, especially in the colonial department. This remark is made only to excite a laudable feeling, in prompting us to pause for a moment and compare our situation with that of any other people in the world.

The name of Mexico is of Indian origin, and descriptive of the character of the people who inhabited it; for it signifies the "habitation of the God of war." The present kingdom of Mexico, or that vast extent of country over which the viceroy of Mexico presides, occupies all the southern extremity of North America from the 35th to the 10th deg. of N. lat. according to the survey of Baron Humboldt, but according to several other authorities, and perhaps more properly speaking, from the 40th to a little south of the 9th degree; bounded on the north by regions unexplored, on the south by the isthmus of Darien, which divides the two continents; on the east by Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico, and on the west by the Pacific ocean, thus forming an extent of territory more than two thousand miles long. Its greater width is from the Rio Colorado, under the parallel of the 30th degree to the western limits of the province of Sonora or the south sea, which is 1200 miles. This distance of breadth, however, must entirely depend upon the issue of an existing disagreement between the governments of the United States and Spain respecting the limits of Louisiana, lately purchased by the former—the one claiming as far south as the Rio Bravo, and the other as far north as the Rio Mexicano. The narrowest part of the continent is fixed by the Baron Humboldt from Tecantipeca, a port on the Pacific ocean, to Vera Cruz, on the Mexican gulf; but if we take the limits of New Spain, as laid down by other geographers, we shall find the narrowest part to be under the parallel of the 9th deg. seven degrees further south, where the distance from sea to sea is not more than 70 miles. Various schemes have been formed, according to the different views of travellers, for uniting the two great high roads of the world by means of a canal somewhere across the isthmus, none of which appear more visionary than some of those noted by our author. He mentions "nine points which at different times have fixed the attention of statesmen and merchants"—the first of which is situate in the 54th deg. of north latitude, and the last is between the 43d and 44th degree of south latitude, a range of more than 7000 miles of coast!—But the immense chain of mountains, extending from the 70th deg. of N. lat. almost without interruption to the extremity of the southern continent, and in the most [apparently] eligible places of communication not less than 9 or 10,000 feet (nearly two miles) high, will it is presumed, forever present an insuperable barrier to the accomplishment of so great a design. "Should a canal of communication," says our author, "between the two oceans be opened, the productions of Nootka Sound and of China will be brought more than 2000 leagues nearer to Europe and the United States.—Then only can great changes be effected in the political state of eastern Asia; for this neck of land, the barrier against the waves of the Atlantic ocean, has been many ages the bulwark of the independence of China and Japan."

The whole surface of Mexico contains about 148,478 square leagues. About one half is situate

under the scorching sky of the tropics; the other belongs to the temperate Zone. The latter, very thinly inhabited, is generally called the *internal provinces*—the former, from the elevation of the country, three fifths of the land, even the great plains, being from 6000 to 8000 feet above the level of the sea, "rather enjoys a cold or temperate than a burning climate"—Indeed a large part of the country may be considered as a great plain situate on the top of a mighty ridge of mountains, on which are piled other mountains of prodigious heights. The descents to the ocean are very gradual; travelling is not much interrupted by these fearful ravines and precipices, usually found in mountainous countries. The region of perpetual snow commences at the height of 13,500 feet. In the vicinity of the city of Mexico is a group of tremendous mountains; the four greatest of which, Popocatepetl, Iztaccihualt, Citlatepetl, and Neuhcamptepetl, are respectively, 17,716, 15,700, 17,371 and 13,414 feet high, according to the most accurate measurements.

The ports along the coast of New Spain possess a warm climate like the West Indies, and are subject to the like diseases; some of them are extremely unhealthy. Acapulco, is particularly so, though the grand emporium of a vast trade to Asia, Peru, Chili, &c. The city of Mexico has a delightful climate—the mean heat of the coldest day is given at 62° of Fahrenheit, and of the warmest, 75°. The general temperature of the "table land" of Mexico is 62°—it produces wheat, corn and other vegetables in great abundance; while the land on the coasts are fertile in cane, indigo, cocoa, cotton, &c. The provinces called *internal* have climates similar to the United States. The richest veins of silver are situate from 5000 to 6500 feet above the level of the sea.

Mexico with all its advantages, has very few navigable rivers, the chief of which are, the river of the North (*Rio del Norte*) which has a course of 512 leagues, and discharges much water into the sea, but traverses a country very thinly inhabited and sterile. The *Rio Bravo* and the *Rio Colorado* both take their rise in the Cordillera under the 46° of latitude and discharge themselves into the Mexican Gulf—the former under the parallel of the 14° and the latter under the 23° N. of latitude. The *Rio Colorado* is formed by the *Zaguuanas* and the *Nabajos*, which derive their sources from two small rivers which empty into the Gulf of California, and thus constitute one of the Baron Humboldt's probable points of communication between the two seas. The *Rio San Juan* and the *Rio Quito* both arise from a small ravine in the province of *Chaco*; the junction of the *Rio*, the *Andagada* and the *Zitara*, forms the *Rio d'Atrato* which discharges itself into the Atlantic Ocean, while the *Rio San Juan* empties into the South sea, these two rivers therefore form another point of the probable communication; and indeed, as the same indefatigable researcher tells us, a real communication has been opened there since the year 1788 for loaded canoes, which, by means of a small canal cut in the ravine readily

‡ The highest of the Alps is about 15,000 feet—of the Pyrennees only 6500 feet, and of the Pic of Teneriffe, the highest land of the old world, 15,395 feet.

§ Owing, perhaps, to their great humidity—the quantity of rain which falls at Vera Cruz, is estimated at 63 or 64 inches *per ann.* The general average of France is only 37 1/2 inches, "yet with the exception of a few serpents and deep valleys," says Humboldt, "New Spain ought to be considered as a country remarkably salubrious."

pass during the prevalence of heavy rains, from sea to sea. Besides these, there are many other considerable rivers.

The lakes, and Mexico abounds with them, of which we shall have occasion to speak hereafter, "are merely the remains of immense basins of water which appear formerly to have existed on the high and extensive plains of the Cordillera," and, for the most part, seem to be annually on the decline.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The Chronicle.

There has lately occurred no important event in Spain or Portugal; the French emperor is said to be reinforcing his army; and Wellington, with his strong holds, appears to make a formidable resistance. The ultimate expulsion of the British is a probable event, but whether Bonaparte will shortly obtain quiet possession of these countries, is at least problematical—he has taught the people to fight, and supposed to have lost in the bloody contest not less than six hundred thousand men—"Ye Gods! what havoc does ambition make."

Our accounts from England, to use the language of consul O'Brien, are "squally." The affair of the *President* frigate and the *Little Belt* has excited much sensibility in England. A squadron of ships under the command of rear-admiral sir Joseph Yorke, consisting of four vessels of 74 guns and two frigates, has been dispatched for our coast, and may be daily expected. Some of the London newspapers say the admiral has orders to commence immediate hostilities unless our government shall disavow the conduct of commodore Rodgers. It also appears that some important dispatches have been received from England—"A king's messenger," the first officially acknowledged as such in the United States, passed through this city on Wednesday last to the British minister, Mr. Foster, at Washington. In the mean time the British ships of war are making captures on our coast. Important events may be expected, but at present all is rumor and uncertainty.

From France our accounts are less gloomy than heretofore; several American vessels have been released; rather effected, it would seem, by a whim of the government than in consequence of any material change in its policy. But the present enormous duties on American produce in France forbids all hope of a profitable and extensive trade until they are reduced, of which a prospect is held out.

Few domestic events of much note have reached us during the week. At a meeting held at Vincennes, Indiana territory, at which were present a large number of very respectable gentlemen, it was agreed among other resolves, as the opinion of the assembly, "that the persons and property of this frontier can never be secured, but by breaking up of the combination formed by the *Shawnee* prophet on the Wabash." It is generally believed in the western country that the outrages committed by the Indians are brought about by "British influence." A war, however, is not expected; the Indians fearing the Americans too much to engage in it. The Spaniards, August 7, still possessed the fort at Mobile; but were completely surrounded by the American forces, and had no further control over the navigation of the river.

It is ascertained that the late election for electors of a senate of Maryland, has eventuated in favor of the republicans—Thus the character of the state, for five years is established. All the returns are not yet received.

The Editor's Department.

The public will observe from the quantity of matter contained in this number, and from the expectation held out that several *extra* numbers will be added to every volume, that our prospectus is not too expanded for the means embraced in the plan. But it will take us some time to get the business in its desired train—many books and papers are yet to be sought for and purchased or otherwise obtained, and various things done to complete the arrangement; but so great is the public liberality* that we are encouraged to do all within the compass of our power to meet it as we ought. Among many rare and valuable articles already laid off for the REGISTER, we inform its patrons with much satisfaction, that a gentleman of great distinction has kindly proffered us the use of the *Journals of the Stamp-Act Congress*, which assembled at New-York in 1765, the copy in whose possession, we have reason to believe, is, perhaps the only one extant—in the archives at Washington there is no record of the proceedings of that illustrious assembly.

Considering tables similar to those given in this number (by way of specimen) as among the most useful and interesting articles we can possibly insert, affording easy reference to important facts, we are preparing with much assiduity and care, a great variety of them, for occasional publication.—Those relative to the United States will, generally, be deferred until after the meeting of congress, when, from the documents to be laid before that body, we shall be able to render them more perfect. A new census is about to be taken in England, which shall be duly noticed. In our next will be inserted a table of the population of France.

"The history of the invasion of Spain by Bonaparte," written by an associate, and commenced in this number, will manifest that we do not intend to come under "French influence."—A history of the war against Denmark, (*Copenhagen!*) designed for the historical department, will show there is no "British influence" among us—and a narrative of the war with Tripoli, with our uniform conduct, we trust, will prove us to be influenced only by American feelings.

The department for *News*, denominated the *Chronicle*, is by no means what we intend it to be. It is expected to contain a *history of the times*, and so it shall—but the arrangement therefor is not yet accomplished. By the next publication we hope to receive all the necessary papers, &c. to render it tolerably complete. A concise price-current shall occasionally be inserted, to gratify many patrons in the country.

✍ We hope to receive the indulgence of our friends for any *irregularities* that may be committed in the delivery or address of the WEEKLY REGISTER, in the first instance—for in this, as well as in the other arrangements, it is not only *impracticable* but morally *impossible* that we should, at once, fall into that perfect system by which we hope to mark our general concern. We request that notice may be left at the office or transmitted to us, of the errors or omissions made herein: they shall be corrected or supplied.

* There are more than 1500 subscribers to the WEEKLY REGISTER.