

THE WEEKLY REGISTER.

Vol. 1.]

BALTIMORE, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10., 1811.

No. 7.

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

"——— 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.

A Manifesto

By the confederation of Venezuela, in South America, of the reasons which influenced them in the formation of an ABSOLUTE INDEPENDENCE of Spain, and every other Foreign power. Drawn up and ordered to be published by the general congress of the United Provinces.

America, for more than three centuries condemned to hold an existence only as subservient to the political preponderance of Spain, without the smallest influence or participation in her grandeur, would have become, by a succession of events in which it bore no other share than a patient resignation, the victim of the confusion, corruption and conquest, which have disorganized the nation, & an instinctive sense of their own security had not dictated to the Americans, that the moment had arrived when they should labor to reap the fruits of three hundred years of inactivity and patience.

If the discovery of the New World was one of the most interesting events to mankind, the regeneration of the same world which has been ever since degraded by oppression and servitude, will be no less so. America, without passing through the political gradations of other nations, having raised itself from the dust and chains, will, in its turn, conquer the old world without invading or enslaving it. The revolution of America will become useful to the whole human race, when constituted and governed by itself, it shall open its arms to receive the people of Europe, weighed down by political exactions, put to flight by war, and pursued by the fury of every passion; thirsting there after peace and tranquility, the inhabitants of the other hemisphere will cross the ocean without the ferocity or perfidy of the heroes of the 16th century: as friends and not as tyrants: as petitioners, and not as lords: not to destroy, but to build: not as tigers, but as men, who indignant at our former disgrace and feeling it as their own, shall not convert their reason into malignant interest, nor seek to make our annals again become the annals of vexation and blood. Then shall navigation, geography, astronomy, industry, and commerce, brought to perfection by the discovery of America to its cost, be converted into so many means of accelerating, consolidating, and perfecting the happiness of both worlds.

Nor is this a pleasing dream only, but a homage which reason pays to Providence. It was written in its ineffable decrees that one half of the human species should not groan under the tyranny of the other half, and that the last judgment day should not arrive till every portion of its creatures should enjoy their rights. Every thing combined to forward this epoch of felicity and joy. In Europe, the shock and fermentation of opinion, the contempt and overthrow of the laws, the profanation

of the rights which linked the state together, the luxury of the palace, the misery of the cottage, the triumph of vice, and the oppression of virtue: in America, the increase of population, the necessities created by it, the expansion of agriculture in a soil new and vigorous, the germ of industry under a beneficent climate, the elements of the sciences in a privileged organization, the disposition to a rich and prosperous commerce, and the vigor of a political youth, all, all accelerated the progress of evil in the one world, and of good in the other.

Such was the advantageous alternative which enslaved America presented beyond the ocean to her mistress, Spain, when oppressed by the weight of every evil, and undermined by all the destructive principles of society, she demanded to be released from her chains, that she might fly to her assistance: the genius of evil and disorder possessed the governors: resentful pride occupied the place of calculation and prudence: ambition triumphed over liberality: and, substituting fraud and perfidy to generosity and goodfaith, they turned against us the very arms by which, in the honest simplicity of our attachment, we had taught Spain the way to resist and triumph over her enemies, under the banners of a presumptive king, unfit to reign, and with no other right than his misfortunes and the generous compassion of the people.

Venezuela was the first to swear to Spain that generous aid which she believed a necessary homage: Venezuela was the first in her affliction to pour upon her wounds the consolatory balsam of fraternity and friendship: Venezuela was the first to discover those disorders which threatened the destruction of Spain: she was the first to provide for her own preservation without breaking the bonds which connected them together: she was the first to feel the effects of ambitious ingratitude: was the first to suffer hostilities from her brethren: and will be the first to recover her independence and civil dignity in the new world. To vindicate this measure of necessity and justice, she has thought it due to her own respect and principles, when about to occupy the high rank designed her by Providence, to present to the world the reasons by which she was actuated.

It would be superfluous to exhibit to the view of impartial Europe, indignities and vexations which she has often lamented whenever that privilege was denied to ourselves: nor would it be less so to expatiate upon the injustice of our dependence and degradation, when it must be looked upon by every nation as an insult to political equity, that Spain, a small spot of ground, depopulated, corrupted, and plunged into disgraceful inactivity by a despotic government, should usurp to her own exclusive use the industry and activity, the precious and incalculable resources, of the continent.

The interests of Europe cannot be in opposition to the liberty of the fourth part of the world, which

is now opening to itself the facility of the other three; the southern peninsula could oppose the interests of its government to those of the nation, and excite the old hemisphere to hostilities against the new, for a time, but they have already seen their inability to oppress it any longer. It is against their attempts, more injurious to our dignity than to our prosperity, that we shall oppose the reasons which, since the 15th of July, 1808, have drawn from us the resolutions of the 19th of April, 1810, and of the 5th of July, 1811, which three epochs will form the first period in the records of regenerated Venezuela, when the impartial pencil of history shall trace the first lines of the political existence of South America.

Having made known in our manifestoes and public papers nearly all the reasons for our resolution, all our designs, and all the just and honorable means we have employed to carry them into effect, it will suffice to make an exact and impartial comparison of our conduct with that of the governments of Spain, in more recent times; to justify not only our moderation, our measures of security, our independence, but even the declaration of an irreconcilable enmity against those who have directly or indirectly contributed to the unnatural system adopted against us. Let those, who have borne no share in our disgrace, and seek to take no part in our dispute, hear and judge; and let them not lose sight of the solemn act of our just, necessary and modest emancipation.

A long habit of obedience, the apathy which despotism had created, and the fidelity and good faith of Caracas, were for the moment superior to every combination; and even after the despatches of the lieutenant Murat had been received, the people of Caracas continued faithful, without foreseeing the evils to which such generous and noble conduct would expose them. Influenced only by a sense of honor, Venezuela, refused to follow the voice of the nobles of Spain, when, in support of the orders of the lieutenant of the kingdom, they exacted from us the acknowledgment of the new king and the other authorities; declaring and publishing that Spain had commenced a new existence from the moment of the cession of the Bourbons and the introduction of another dynasty, giving an example thereby to America for the recovery of her liberty and independence;¹ but as soon as the central junta saw that we were determined to provide for our own safety, they began to vary their language of liberality; they perfidiously held out Fernando as the talisman of our fidelity: the simple and lawful project of Caracas to follow the example of the government of Spain,² was with deceitful severity stifled in its birth: and a new kind of despotism began to be established by those who usurped the sovereignty.

New governors and judges, instructed to adopt and support a new system against America according to the policy of the other hemisphere, were sent out in consequence of the surprise which our unexpected generosity had caused to the central junta. Ambiguity and cunning were all the resources of their frail administration; as they saw the empire exposed, and their own authority depending upon that of their constituents, they thought of nothing but to support each other under the shelter of our delusion

and good faith. There was no existing law to prevent their plans; and every expedient, however adverse to the principles of equity and justice, which could favor this new order of political freemasonry, assumed the force of law. The declaration of the captain-general to the audience, that there was no law nor will in Caracas but theirs:—the intercepting and opening the papers addressed by don Pedro Gonzales Ortega to the central junta: the carrying our citizens out of these provinces and confining them at Cadiz and Porto Rico: chaining and condemning to public labor a great number of good citizens, dragged from their homes under various pretenses, without even the form of a judgment: revoking and suspending the determinations of the audience, whenever they were not conformable to their caprice and will; appointing a Syndick* contrary to the will of the council; causing their officers to be received without titles or authority: having numerous disgraceful disputes with the audience and the council: and then forming a reconciliation with the magistrates, to the end that these despots might with the greater impunity carry on their project against us.³

Under these auspices, the defeats and misfortunes of the army in Spain were concealed; pompous accounts of their triumphs over the French in the peninsula and on the Danube, were forged and promulgated; the streets were illuminated; bonfires were made: the bells were rung, and religion itself prostituted by singing *Te Deum*, as if to insult Providence and render our evils perpetual. That no time might be left us to reflect upon our situation and discover the snares which surrounded us, conspiracies were formed, parties and factions were feigned, French squadrons and emissaries were said to be in our seas, and on our shores; our intercourse with the neighboring colonies was restrained and limited; our commerce was destroyed; all with a view to keep us in perpetual agitation, and divert our attention from our true interests.

Our patience now alarmed, and our vigilance awakened, we began to mistrust the government of Spain and their agents: informed of their intrigues and machinations, we discovered all the horror of our situation: the genius of truth raised above the thin atmosphere of oppression and calumny, pointed out to us with the finger of impartiality, the true state of the peninsula, the disorder of the government, the exertion of the inhabitants, the formidable power of their enemies, and the small hope of their salvation. Shut up in our houses, surrounded with spies, threatened with infamy and transportation, scarce could we lament our situation, or do more than murmur in secret against our vigilant and crafty enemies. The consonance of our sighs, breathed in bitterness and oppression, created an uniformity of sentiment, and united our opinions: enclosed by the four walls of his house, and allowed no external communication, the citizen of Caracas could do no less than think that the moment was come when he should be forever free, or give his irrevocable sanction to a new and horrible servitude.

Every thing conspired to shew the nullity of the transactions at Bayonne, the invalidation of the rights of Fernando, and of all the Bourbons who had concurred in certain illegal stipulations: the ignominy with which those who had placed them on the throne in

¹ See several papers which were published in the commencement of the revolution in Spain.

² The project of the year 1808 to form a conservative junta as in Spain.

³ A receiver of fines and confiscations.

⁴ Of all this we have authentic testimony in our archives.

opposition to the pretensions of the house of Austria, were now delivered up as slaves; the connivance of the self-created governors of Spain with the plans of the new dynasty; the fits which they were preparing for America; and the necessity of taking measures to defend the new world from the evils which the nature of its relations with the old was bringing upon it. They saw their treasures buried in the unfathomable gulph of European corruption; they had to lament the blood of Americans mixed in strife with that of the enemies of America, to support the slavery of their country; they penetrated, in spite of the vigilance of their tyrants, even Spain itself, and saw nothing but disorder, corruption, factions, defeats, misfortune, treasons, armies dispersed, provinces invaded, a hostile army and a government weak and imbecile.

Such was the general impression which the agents of tyranny, sent to maintain at every hazard the infamous cause of their constituents, made upon the people of Venezuela; every word was followed by proscription: a single speech was cause of transportation to its author; and every attempt of the Americans to better their condition, was considered as sufficient cause for their ruin and disgrace. Such mistaken calculations could only multiply disputes, increase the popular discontent, and prepare the combustibles which by a single spark should take fire and consume every vestige of their miserable condition. It appeared that Spain, though pillaged and necessitous, with her fate depending on the generosity of the Americans, and almost at the point of being struck off from the catalogue of nations, carried herself back to the 16th and 17th centuries, endeavoring once more to conquer America with arms more terrible than the bullet or sword: every day was pregnant with some new proof of the fate that threatened us; placed in the horrid predicament of being sold to a foreign nation, or of groaning forever under a new and irrecoverable servitude, we waited only for the happy moment which should give impulse to our opinion, and unite our endeavors to assert and maintain it.

In the midst of the general exasperation we heard of the interruption of the French into the Andalusia; the dissolution of the central junta, and the abortive institution of another new proteus government, under a name of a regency. This announced itself with the most liberal ideas; and foreseeing the necessity of creating an interest in the Americans for this extraordinary government, they endeavored to strengthen the illusion by brilliant promises, futile theories of reform, and presages of what would be our condition under the hands of the viceroys and ministers, and not of the governors; at the very moment that these agents were receiving the strictest orders to watch our conduct and our opinions, lest we might discover through the flimsy eloquence which glided this specious act of emancipation, the chains prepared for us.

At any other period this would have dazzled the Americans; but the central junta and that of Seville, had now to our reproach, laboured too long to deceive us with hyperbolic promises, which only served to redouble our vigilance, unite our sentiments, and form a firm and invincible resolution to perish rather than any longer remain the victims of cabal and perfidy. The day on which religion celebrates the solemn mysteries of the re-

demption of mankind, was the day which Providence marked out for the commencement of the political redemption of America. On the 19th April, holy Thursday, fell the colossus of despotism in Venezuela, the empire of the 16th was proclaimed, and tyrants expelled with tranquillity and moderation which have filled the world with admiration.

Who would have supposed it possible for a people to have shewn so much forbearance in the act of freeing themselves from their oppressors and recovering their rights! Venezuela faithful to her promises, only secured her own destinies, that she might fulfil them; and if, with one hand she drove off the agents of her misery and slavery, with the other she placed it to the name of Ferdinand VII. in the front of her new government, swore to preserve his rights, promised to acknowledge the unity and political integrity of the Spanish nation, opened her arms to her brethren of Europe, offered them an asylum in their misfortunes and calamities, procured the generous alliance of England, and was ready to take part in the happiness or misery of the nation from which she has found it necessary to separate forever.

But this was not what the regency demanded of us. Whilst in their theories they declared us free, in their practice they subjected us to a diminutive and insignificant representation; believing that those to whom they thought nothing due, would content themselves with what their masters chose to give them. With this liberal calculation, the Regency sought to keep up our allusion, and pay us in words and promises for our long servitude, and for the blood and treasures we had spent in Spain. We well know how little we had to hope from the policy of Ferdinand's proxies: we were not ignorant, that if we were not dependent on the viceroys, ministers and governors, still less could we be the subjects of a captive king without rights or authority, a government null and illegal, a nation incapable of maintaining their right to another, or a peninsular angle of Europe, occupied almost wholly by a foreign power: but wishing to gain our liberty by means of generosity and moderation, we acknowledged the imaginary rights of the son of Maria Louise, we respected the misfortunes of the nation, and imparting our resolution to the regency, which we disavowed, we offered never to separate from Spain provided she should establish a legal government, formed by the will of the nation, and in which America should bear that share to which justice, necessity, and the political importance of her territory entitled her.

If three hundred years of former servitude were not enough to authorise our emancipation, we had abundant cause in the conduct of the government which arrogated the sovereignty of a conquered nation which could not have the smallest claim to America, declared an integral part of it; though they sought to involve it in the conquest. If the governors of Spain had been paid by their enemies, they could not have done more against the welfare of the nation connected, as it was with America. With perfect contempt for our importance, and the justice of our claims, though they could not deny us an appearance of representation, they subjected it to the influence of their agents, to whom the election was entrusted; and though to the provinces occupied by the French and the Canary Islands, a representative was allowed for every fifty thousand souls, elected freely by the people, in America a million was scarcely thought enough to give the right to a representative named by the viceroy, or captain-general, under seal of the council.

Witness the transportation of several officers of distinction, and of citizens of rank and probity, by a decree of the emperor to the 20th of March, 1810.

Whilst strong in the testimony of our justice, and the moderation of our proceedings, we hoped that if the reasons we assigned to the regency of the necessity of our resolution were not thought sufficient, they would, at least, respect the noble disposition which determined us not to become the enemies of our oppressed and unfortunate brethren; the new government of Caracas wished not to confine this disposition to vain reasoning, and the unprejudiced world will acknowledge that Venezuela passed the interim from the 19th April 1810, to the 5th July, 1811, in a painful round of insults and hostilities, on the part of Spain, and of generosity, moderation, and patience, on her own. This is the most interesting epoch in the history of our revolution, in as much as its events furnish a contrast so favorable to our cause that we must hope to gain the impartial judgment of those nations who have no interest in discrediting our efforts.

Previous to the results of our political transformation there daily fell into our hands new motives to urge the event. In every ship which arrived from Spain there came out new agents furnished with free instructions, to support the cause of ambition and perfidy; with the same view, permission was denied to the military and other Europeans to return to Spain; though they petitioned to join in the war against the French! Orders were issued, under pretence of expecting war, which deprived the Americans of every privilege.⁶

The gazettes were filled with triumphs, victories, and acknowledgments forced from those who were yet ignorant of our resolution; and under the severest threats a political inquisition with all its horrors, was established against those who held, received, or read any other writings, whether Spanish or otherwise, than those which immediately proceeded from the regency: with the most scandalous impudence they declared void a decree which encouraged our commerce and agriculture, and proscribed the authors and promoters of it; at the same time that they exacted supplies from all classes without giving the smallest account of their application; in contempt of public faith they caused the whole correspondence of the country to be opened without exception, an outrage proceeding from the despotism of Godoy, and adopted only to render still more tyrannical their despicable system of espionage against America. In a word, they began to give us an experimental knowledge of the system they had adopted to perpetuate our slavery.

In the mean time Venezuela become her own mistress, thought not of imitating the detestable conduct of the regency and their agents; content with having secured her fate against the ambition of an intrusive and illegitimate government, and placed herself out of the reach of their dark and complicated schemes, she endeavored to prove by her actions her desire for peace, friendship and intercourse with her European brethren. Those who were already among us were treated as such, and two thirds of the political, civil, and military employments either remained or were placed in the hands of Europeans, with a frankness and candour but too fatal to our interest: our coffers were generously opened to supply the luxury and extravagance of our tyrants: the commanders of their ships were received in our harbors, and aided in the execution of their respective commissions; the offences of one of them were even submitted to the judgment of the Spanish government. The governing junta of Caracas assigned their reasons for

not hazarding in the voracious hands of the government the public funds which might serve in a time of greater need to relieve the distresses of the nation, but they appealed to the generosity and sensibility of the people, by publishing in their gazettes, the plaintive manifesto of the regency by which the nation was represented as in the last extremity.—The deputies of the regency for Quito, St. Fe, and Peru, were hospitably received, treated as friends, and their pecuniary wants satisfactorily supplied.—But we waste too much time in analysing the dark and suspicious conduct of our enemies, though all their efforts have been insufficient to destroy the triumphant influence of ours.

The haughty masters of our territory were not the only ones who were authorised to support the detestable plot of their constituents: the agents of the juntas and of the regency inundated America, and bound in a machiavelian compact of political free masonry, mutually aided and assisted each other in their combinations against the happiness and political existence of the New World. The island of Porto Rico was soon made the den of the hellish agents of the regency; the rendezvous of all their expeditions; the head-quarters of all the anti-American forces; the workshop of all the impostures, calumnies and threats of the regents; the refuge of the infamous, and the harbor of a new company of freebooters, that none of the calamities of the sixteenth century might be wanting to the new conquest of America in the nineteenth. The Americans of Porto Rico, overpowered by the bayonets, cannons, chains and fetters which encompassed them, were compelled to add to their own evils and misfortunes the painful necessity of contributing to ours. Such was the condition of the Americans condemned, not only to be accessory to, but to assist in the destruction of each other.

The conduct which Spain observed towards America appears much more harsh and insulting when compared with what it was in respect to France. It is notorious that that portion of the country which resisted the new dynasty had many decided partizans among those who were distinguished for their rank, employments and enlightened understanding; yet, notwithstanding, there was not one to be found among them, anxious as they were for the liberty, independence, and regeneration of the peninsula, willing to excuse the conduct of the American provinces; who actuated by the same principles of fidelity and national integrity, sought only to preserve themselves from a dependence on those illegitimate, imbecile, and turbulent governments formed alternately by the agents of the king or representatives of the nation. An ostentatious liberality and pretended patriotism with respect to the exhausted, disorganized, and almost conquered country of Spain, and parsimony, suspicion, prejudice and pride in regard to the noble, generous and faithful Americans, characterised the conduct of the cortes. The treasons, intrigues, commotions and disturbances in the revolution of Spain, were passed over as unavoidable circumstances; but none of the provinces which rested contented under the French dominion were treated as Venezuela: their conduct was scrutinised and judged according to the motives and circumstances which dictated it, and conformably to the rules of war; but none of them have yet been declared traitors and rebels, and for none of them has a public commission of diplomatic incendiaries

⁶ The 30th April, 1810.

⁷ Morla, Azanza, Osarill, Urquijo, Mazarredo, and many others of all classes and professions.

been erected; to arm Spaniard against Spaniard, stir up civil war, and devote to destruction all who would not bow to the name of Ferdinand VII. America only was condemned to undergo these unexampled miseries.

It appears that the independence of America awakened greater fury in Spain than the foreign aggression which threatened it, as all their resources were employed against it: the turbulent and incendiary spirit of a minister of the council of India could not be more worthily employed than in the conquest of Venezuela, with the arms of the Alsineros and the Welsers,⁸ in the name of a king without a title to the throne upon which he was placed. Under this name all the flood-gates of iniquity were opened upon us, and all the horrors of conquest renewed: under this name we were treated with greater severity even than those who had abandoned it before us; and under this name they sought to continue the Spanish dominion in America, which was considered as a political phenomenon even in the days of the greatest energy and vigor of the monarchy. Could any law be made to bind us to the patient toleration of the torrent of abuses which, those who called themselves his representatives, poured upon us in his name? His name obtained for them the treasures, the obedience and acknowledgment of America; and, by means of their flagitious conduct, the name of Ferdinand has for ever lost all consideration and respect among us.⁹

The tyrant of Borriquem¹⁰ not content with calumniating, insulting and declaring war against us, thereby usurping the privileges of a sovereign; not satisfied with appointing himself the voluntary goal of the messengers of peace and alliance, because they counteracted the plans which the new king of Spain had already accepted from the regency: not believing his eminent services sufficiently recompensed by the honor of having faithfully served his kings; with the most audacious insolence he seized the public goods of Caracas, which had been shipped on board the frigate Ferdinand VII. for the purpose of purchasing military stores in London; and that no insult might be wanting, he alleged that the Spanish government would confiscate them, that England, ignorant of our design, would appropriate them to her own use, and that no where would they be more safe than in his hands: such were the reasons which the governor of Porto Rico assigned for this atrocious plunder: but this is not all which this worthy agent of the regency has done to promote their designs.

However aggrieved by these robberies and insults, Venezuela persisted in the resolution not to change the principles adopted as the rule of her conduct: the act of the national representation was published in the name of Ferdinand VII: all the acts of our government and administration were done under his imaginary authority: by the laws and codes of Spain, a most horrible and bloody conspiracy of the Europeans was tried, and these were infringed to pardon them, that we might not stain with the blood of our perfidious brethren, the glorious remembrance of our revolution.

It appeared that nothing now remained but a reconciliation with Spain, or the entire abandonment

of our ruinous and unrequited system of generosity: Venezuela was willing, however, to use every means within her power, until forced by necessity to the declarations of the 15th July, 1808, and again of the 19th April, 1810. Having forgiven the horrid transactions at Quito, Pose and la Paz: finding ourselves supported by Buenos Ayres, Santa Fe, Florida, Mexico, Guatemala and Chili: after obtaining a conditional guarantee from England: and gaining over to our cause Barcelona, Merida and Truxillo: after having our conduct approved by every impartial man in Europe; and seeing the triumph of our principles from the Orinoco to Magdalena, and from Cape Cod to the Andes, we still waited but to endure new insults, before we took the painful resolution of breaking off our connection forever with our brethren.

Caracas having done no more than imitate many provinces of Spain, and exercise only those rights which had been ceded to it in common with all America, by the council of the regency; having had no other design than what the supreme law of necessity required, to secure ourselves from an unhappy fate, and relieve the regency from the labour of attending to the government of countries so extensive and remote, while they were employed in war: without having broke our unity and political integrity with Spain: without having disavowed, as we might and ought to have done, the feeble rights of Ferdinand: without deigning to submit our demands and requisitions to the voice of the nation, we were declared in a state of war, denounced as traitors and rebels; and deprived of our commerce and communication with England or our European brethren: all the excesses which malignity of heart could dictate, and such as would have disgraced the despots of India, were approved and authorized, as will appear by the order of the 4th September, 1810; and, as a climax to their savage proceeding, a new emissary with the title of pacificator was sent out, who with greater prerogatives than the original conquerors and founders of the place, posted himself at Porto Rico, to pillage, plunder, and destroy in the name of Ferdinand VII.

Until then the system which the regency adopted from the moment they knew of the movements at Caracas, had been slower in its progress; but the principal focus of the civil war being now brought nearer to us, the subalterns acquired greater vigor, and the zeal of all who commanded the subsidiary forces of Cortabarría and Meléndez was increased. Hence the energy of that ephemeral sedition: the discord created by *Migares*, proped up with the ideal title of captain general of Venezuela: hence to our regret the American blood, shed upon the fields of Coro: hence the robberies committed on our coasts by the pirates of the regency: the insults given to the English flag; the decay of our commerce; the conspiracies in the valleys of Aragua and Cumana: the horrid perfidy of Guayana, and the degrading transportation of their nobles to the dungeons of Porto Rico: hence the generous interposition of an officer of the British government in the Antilles,¹¹ and its rejection by the pseudo-pacificator: and hence, in fine, all the evils, atrocities and crimes which must for ever be inseparable from the names of Cortabarría and Meléndez in Venezuela, and which have forced its government, contrary to their original intentions, to take under their protection, all who have honoured them with their confidence.

⁸ The first tyrants of Venezuela, under the authority of Charles V. and the instigators of a civil war among the primitive inhabitants.

⁹ Ex qua persona quis lucrum capit ejus factum prebitur teneatur. [The receiver is as bad as the thief.]

¹⁰ The original name of the island of Porto Rico.

¹¹ His excellency admiral Cochran.

The mission of *Cortabarría* in the nineteenth century, considering the relative situations of Spain and America, demonstrates how blindly ambition leads on those who forget that the people are the fountain of all authority. The spirit of Charles V. the memory of Cortes and Pizarro, and the names of Montezuma and Atahualpa, involuntarily presented themselves to our imagination when we saw those scenes renewed in a country which had numbered three hundred years of submission and sacrifices, and which had promised to continue them, upon no other condition than being free, that slavery might not tarnish the merit of fidelity.

It is obvious that America neither does nor can appertain to the Spanish territory; and that, however just or unjust were the rights which the Bourbons assumed over it, these could not be transferred to another without the consent of the American people. The bull of Alexander VI. and the titles brought forward by the house of Austria, could have no other origin than the right of conquest which was ceded by the conquerors to the crown. Independent of the depopulation of the territory, the extermination of the natives, and the emigration from the capital, it appears the fury of conquest was abated: the thirst for gold satisfied: the continental equilibrium declared in favor of Spain: the feudal government from the reign of the Bourbons in Spain destroyed and annihilated: and all right which had not its origin in the concessions or edicts of the prince being annulled, the original conquerors of course were suspended from theirs. If the invalidity of the right which the Bourbons arrogated be shewn, the title by which the descendants of the conquerors possessed the country must be revived: not in the prejudice of the original proprietors; but to render equal the enjoyment of liberty, property and independence, with greater right than the Bourbons or any other to whom they have ceded America, without the consent of the natural lords of the soil.

That America does not belong to the Spanish territory is a principle of natural law and equity.—None of the titles which exist of its slavery whether just or unjust, can apply to the Spaniards of Europe; and all the liberality of Alexander VI. could do no more than declare the Austrian kings promoters of the faith in making themselves masters of America. Neither the title of *metropolis*, nor *mother country*, can give the right of signatory to the peninsula of Spain: the first was lost from the moment the monarch, who was acknowledged by the Americans, left it and renounced his rights; and the second was always a ridiculous abuse of terms, just as consistent as that of calling our slavery, *felicity*,—the fiscals of India, *protectors*,—and the Americans, without either right or civil dignity, *sons*.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

French Empire.

Paris, June 30, 1811.

EXTRACTS FROM THE FRENCH EXPOSE

Of the situation of the French empire, presented to the legislative body, in its sitting of the 29th of June, by his excellency the comte de Montalivet, minister of the interior:

GENTLEMEN,—Since your last session, the empire has been increased by the addition of sixteen departments, five millions of population, a territory affording a revenue of one hundred millions, nine hundred miles of coast, with all its maritime resources. The mouths of the Rhine, the Meuse, and of the Scheldt, were not French; the circula-

tion of the interior of the empire was shackled,—the productions of the departments of its centre could only reach the sea, by paying tribute to foreign powers. These inconveniences have disappeared forever. The maritime arsenal of the Scheldt, on which such great hopes are founded, has received in this manner all the extension it ought to possess. The mouths of the Ems, of the Weser, and of the Elbe, place in our possession all the timber which Germany furnishes. The frontiers of the empire lean on the Baltic, and thus, having a direct communication with the north, it will be easy for us to draw from it the spars, the hemp, the copper; and other naval stores which we may have occasion for. We now command all the materials necessary in the constructing of ships, produced by France, Germany and Italy.

The Simplon having become French, secures us a new communication with Italy.

The re-union of Rome has caused to disappear the inconvenient intermediary space which existed between our armies of the north of Italy and those of the south; and has given us on the Mediterranean new and useful coasts, necessary to our navy, as those of the Adriatic are to Venice. The re-union carries also with it, the double advantage, that the popes are no longer sovereigns, and strangers to France. We have only to examine history to discover the evils which the confusion of the temporal and spiritual powers have occasioned to religion. The popes have incessantly sacrificed holy things to those of a temporal nature.

It was not the divorce of Henry VIII. that separated England from the church of Rome; it was the tribute to St. Peter. If it is advantageous to the state and to religion, that the pope should no longer be sovereign, it is equally advantageous to the empire, that the bishop of Rome, the chief of our church, should not be a stranger to us, and that he should unite to the love of religion, that of the country, which characterises elevated minds. This is, besides, the only way to render compatible, the just influence which the pope is to have over spiritual matters, with the principles of the empire, which do not permit that any foreign bishop may or do exercise any influence in it.

RELIGION.—The emperor is satisfied with the spirit that animates all his clergy.

The attention of the administration has been directed to the wants of the diocese. The establishment of secondary ecclesiastical schools, commonly called *small seminaries*: the foundation of a great many large seminaries of the most advanced studies; the re-establishment of the churches wherever they have been destroyed, and the completion of several great metropolitan sees, the building of which had been interrupted on account of the revolution, are manifest proofs of the zeal that the government bestows on the splendor of worship and prosperity of religion.

Religious dissensions, the consequence of our political troubles, have entirely disappeared; there are no longer in France but priests in communion with their bishops, and united in their religious principles as they are in their attachment to their government.

Twenty-seven bishoprics having been vacant for a long time, and the pope having refused at two different epochs from 1805 to 1807, and from 1808 to the present time, to execute the clauses of the concordate which obliges him to institute the bishops nominated by the emperor, this refusal had rendered the concordate void; it no longer exists. The emperor has therefore been obliged to con-

voke all the bishops of the empire, that they might consult on the means of providing for the vacant sees, and of nominating to those that should become vacant, in conformity to what was done under Charlemagne, under St. Lewis, and in all the centuries that preceded the concordate of Francis I. and Leo. X. for it is the essence of the Catholic religion not to be able to dispense with the ministry and mission of bishops.

Thus has ceased to exist that famous transaction of Francis I. and Leo. X. against which the church, the university and the sovereign courts have so long contended, and which led the writers on public law and magistrates of those times to say that the king and pope had mutually yielded to one another what did not belong to either. Henceforth it is to the deliberation of the council of Paris that the state of episcopacy which will have so much influence even on that of religion, is attached.

As for the rest, if other divisions have existed between the emperor and the temporal sovereign of Rome, there has not existed any between the emperor and the pope, as the chief of religion, and there is nothing that can excite the least uneasiness in the most timorous souls.

JUDICIARY.—Civil justice has been separated from criminal justice; the magistrates pursued crimes only when these were pointed out by the police.—The late code that you have adopted has re-united civil and criminal justice; it has instituted imperial courts invested with the right of pursuing and accusing, and has armed them with the necessary force to cause the laws to be executed. The maintenance and perfection of the jury, and confrontation of witnesses, and the publicity of the trials, have brought together what was good in the old and new system.

In nominating to the different offices, H. M. has sought the members that yet remained of the former parliament, and whose age and knowledge qualified them for employment in the imperial courts; he has called them to it of his own accord, thus giving a proof of his constant desire to see the French forget their former quarrels, and finish to blend themselves in the only interest of their country and of the throne!

ADMINISTRATION.—Many reclamations have been presented upon the limits of the different departments. Even opinions have been intimated which would wish to substitute great prefectures to the actual prefectures, but H. M. has rejected them, and has set as a principle to consider what has been done as established and permanent. Instability destroys every thing. A great revolution has taken place in the organization of the departments; it is an act of property which H. M. does not wish to touch. Those departments have been formed, consolidated in the midst of awful circumstances which have brought together their inhabitants, and they shall always remain united in the same manner.

The communal administration has been everywhere perfected. The budgets deliberated upon it; the council of state direct and censure; thus the administration of all the communes of the empire, have more than ten thousand francs revenue.—Already the mass of those revenues arise to more than eighty millions. Never were the communes at any time nor in any country so rich. Every where else the octroi (municipal duties) is a sovereign impost: H. M. has left it to the communes; consequently all their establishments are in the best state, and in almost all they have undertaken the building of town houses, markets, public magazines, or other works which are to embellish them or aug-

ment their prosperity. The hospitals have been improved every where; it may be said that they never were kept better at any time. Charity is abundantly exercised, and the legacies accepted in the council of state for the hospitals amount yearly to several millions.

H. M. has improved and endowed a great number of congregations of charitable sisterhoods, having for their aim to attend the sick and wait on the hospitals. The intention of H. M. is that all these sisters be, in religious affairs, under the direction of their bishops, who alone have the power to meddle in spiritual affairs in the extent of their dioceses. No congregation under any pretence whatever can, nor ought to be, exempt from their jurisdiction.

Poor-houses have been erected in sixty-five departments; they are already in operation in thirty-two; and it is no longer permitted to beg in these thirty-two departments. Those depots want yet further improvements, so as works may be well established in them and that they may then defray the greatest part of their expenses.

MARINE.—We have lost Guadaloupe and the Isle of France.—The wish to save those colonies was not so great as to cause us to risk our fleets in their relative inferior state. Since the re-union of Holland, that country has furnished us with ten thousand sailors, and thirteen ships of the line.—We have considerable fleets in the Scheldt and at Toulon. Divisions of ships of the line, more or less strong, lie in our different ports, and fifteen ships in the docks of Antwerp. Every thing is arranged so as to add to each year a great number of ships of war to our fleet of the Scheldt. Two ships of the line are building at Cherbourg, and the supplies of timber and materials of every sort are so plentiful in that port, that we may have five more on the stocks before the close of the year 1811.—L'Orient, Rochefort, Toulon, have all their docks occupied.—Numerous vessels are building at Venice. According to treaty Naples was this year to have six ships of the line and six frigates. This kingdom has not fulfilled this engagement. The government of that country will be convinced of the necessity of repairing that failure. Our resources, our interior navigation, are sufficient to raise the material part of our navy, in a few years to the same degree of elevation as that of our enemies. Our experiments on the maritime conscription have succeeded; the young men of 18, 19 and 20 years of age, shew the best disposition, and are rapidly progressing. The frequent excursions of our fleets, the evolutions of our squadrons and flotillas in the Zuyder Zee, the Scheldt, and our roads, and the coasting navigation, have so far improved our young conscripts, as to excite the highest hopes.

WAR.—In one year, the greatest part of the strongest places in Spain have been taken after sieges, which do honor to the genius and artillery of the French armies. More than two hundred standards, eighty thousand prisoners, and an hundred pieces of cannon have been taken from the Spaniards in several pitched battles.

This war was drawing to a close when England, departing from her accustomed policy, took the lead in the field. It is easy to foresee this struggle, and to comprehend all its consequences on the destinies of the world.

The population of England, insufficient for the occupation of the two Indies, America, and many establishments on the Mediterranean; insufficient for the defence of Ireland and her own coast, for her garrisons and immense fleets, and for the loss

of men in an obstinate war sustained against France in the peninsula of Spain, leave many chances in our favor—and England is placed between the ruin of her population, if she persists in maintaining this war, or shame, if she abandon it after having taken so conspicuous a part.

France has eight hundred thousand men under arms; and when new forces, new armies, march towards Spain, to fight these our eternal enemies, four hundred thousand infantry, and fifty thousand cavalry, will remain in our interior, on our coasts, and our frontiers, ready to march for the defence of our rights wherever they shall be threatened. The continental system, which is kept up with the greatest perseverance, is undermining the basis of the finances of England. Already her exchange loses 33 per cent.; her colonies are without outlets for their produce; the greater part of their manufactures are closed; and the continental system is but just in operation! If continued for ten years, it would alone destroy the resources of England.

Her revenue is not founded on the produce of her soil, but on that of the commerce of the world. Even now her factories are half closed. In vain do the English hope from procrastination, and the events excited by her intrigues, that outlets will be opened to her commerce. As to France, the continental system has not altered in the least her position—we have been for ten years without maritime commerce, and we shall continue without it.

The prohibition of English goods on the continent has opened a market to our manufactures; should even that fail them, the consumption of the empire presents a reasonable support. It belongs to our manufactures to regulate themselves upon the wants of sixty millions of consumers.

The prosperity of the imperial treasury is not founded on the commerce of the universe. More than nine hundred millions that are necessary to meet the expences of the empire, are the result of natural direct or indirect impost. England requires two thousand millions to defray her expences, and her own revenue would not be able to furnish more than one third. We shall believe that England can maintain as long as we, this struggle, when she shall have subsisted many years without loans, without consolidating the exchequer bills, and when her payments shall be made in specie, or at least in paper exchangeable at pleasure.

Any reasonable man must be persuaded that France may remain ten years in her present state without experiencing other embarrassments than those she has experienced for these ten years, without augmenting her debt and meeting all her expences. England is obliged every year during the war, to borrow eight hundred millions, which in ten years would make eight thousand millions. How is it possible to conceive that she can succeed in supporting an increase of contributions of four hundred millions to meet the interest of her loans, when she can only now provide for her expences by borrowing eight hundred millions yearly? The actual system of English finances can only be founded on a peace establishment. Indeed, all systems of finances grounded on loans, are pacific in their nature, since borrowing is calling the resources of futurity to the relief of present wants. Notwithstanding, however, the actual administration of England has proclaimed the principle of perpetual war, this is, as if the chancellor of the exchequer had announced that he would propose in a few years a bill of national bankruptcy. It is indeed mathematically demonstrated, that to wish to provide for the expences with eight hundred millions of actual

loans is declaring that, in a few years, no other alternative will be left but that of bankruptcy. This observation is every day made by discerning men; at each campaign it will become yet more striking to all the capitalists.

We are in the fourth year of the Spanish war; and though it should last a few more campaigns, Spain shall be subdued and the English driven from it. What are a few years to consolidate the great empire, and to secure the tranquillity of our children? It is not that the government is not desirous of peace, but it cannot be made so long as the affairs of England are directed by men who have declared their determination of carrying on a perpetual war; and what would such a peace be to France, without a guarantee? In two years the English fleets would seize our vessels and ruin our cities of Bordeaux, Nantz, Marseilles, Amsterdam; Genoa, Leghorn, Venice, Naples, Trieste, and Hamburg, as they have heretofore done; such a peace would only be a snare laid for our commerce: It would only be useful to England, who would find a vent for her merchandize, which would change the continental system. The pledge of peace is in the existence of our navy, and our maritime power.

We shall be able to make peace with safety, when we shall have an hundred and fifty ships of the line; and notwithstanding the obstructions of war, such is the situation of the empire, that we shall shortly have this number of ships.—Thus the guarantee of our fleet, and that of an English administration, founded on principles different from those of the present cabinet, can alone give peace to the universe.—It would be useful to us without doubt, and it would be desirable in another point of view: we will say further, the continent, the whole world call for it; but we have a consolation, which is, that it is much more desirable for our enemies, than for ourselves; and whatever efforts the English ministry may make to stun that nation by a crowd of pamphlets, and by every thing that can keep in agitation a populace anxious for news, it cannot conceal from the world, how much peace becomes every day indispensable to England.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

History

Of the Invasion of Spain by Bonaparte.

ABRIDGED FROM THE MOST AUTHENTIC SOURCES.
CHAPTER III

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 85.)

Asturias and Gallacia were the first provinces that raised the standard; but the rest of Spain pursued the same course so rapidly, as to show that the people acted, not from the influence of example, but from one common feeling, acting co-instantaneously over the whole kingdom. In every province a junta or general government was immediately formed, who, acting under the name of Ferdinand, were to take measures for the general defence, and for the recovery of the country. Their first measure was to issue proclamations, calling upon the people to revenge their brethren who had been massacred; to remember their fathers; to defend their wives and sisters; and to transmit their inheritance of independence to their children. They reminded them how Pelayo, with the mountaineers of Asturias, laid the foundation of the Spanish monarchy, and began that war against the Moors which his posterity continued for 700 years, till they had rooted out the last of the invaders.—They reminded them of the Cid, Reydon de Bivar, a fierce and noble Castilian of the city of Burgos,

now, when the emperor, Henry II. claimed authority over Spain; and a council, where the king of Castile himself presided, discussed his pretensions, that hero refused to deliberate on such a demand, saying that the independence of Spain was established above all title: that no true Spaniard would suffer it to be brought in question; that it should be upheld with their lives; and that he declared himself the enemy of any man who should advise the king to derogate in one point from the honor of their free country! They reminded them of the baseness, the perfidy and the cruelty which they had already experienced from that proud tyrant who arrogates, said they, to himself the title of arbiter of destinies, because he has succeeded in oppressing the French nation, without recollecting that he himself is mortal, and that he only holds the power delegated to him for our chastisement. Had he not, under the faith of treaties, drawn away their soldiers to the Baltic? Had he not, in the character of a friend and ally, marched his troops into the very capital, and made himself master of the frontier fortresses, then robbed them of their king and the whole of their royal family, and usurped their government? What if they perished in resisting these barbarians? "It is better," said they, "to die in defence of your religion and independence, and upon your own native soil, than to be led bound to slaughter, and waste your blood for the aggrandizement of his ambition. The French conscription comprises you. If you do not serve your country, you will be forced away to perish in the north. We lose nothing; for, even should we fail, we shall have freed ourselves by a glorious death, from the intolerable burthen of a foreign yoke. What worse atrocities would the worst savages have perpetrated, than those which the ruffians of this tyrant have committed? They have profaned our temples—they have massacred our brethren—they have assailed our wives"—more than 2000 of the people of Madrid, of that city where they had been so hospitably received, they have murdered in cold blood for no other cause than for having defended their families and themselves. To arms! to arms—no foreign nation could ever lord it over us when we resisted as we ought. Will you bend your necks to the yoke? will you allow yourselves to be insulted by injuries the most perfidious, the most wicked, the most disgraceful—committed in the face of the whole world! will you submit to the humiliating slavery that is prepared for you! To arms! Fly to arms!—not like the monster who oppresses you, to indulge an insatiable ambition; not like him, to violate the law of nations and the rights of humanity.

*When Murat addressed his proclamation to the French before they entered Madrid, recommending to them the "utmost friendship towards a nation which had treated them so kindly on their march, which was allied to them, and which deserved their friendship!" he thought it necessary, in warning them against any excesses, to specify that all soldiers found guilty of violation should be shot.—The French armies are above all others infamous for this worst species of atrocity. Kuttner says, he never heard so much of this crime as in Styria, when he passed through that country two years after the treaty of Leoben. The excesses committed by Bonaparte's soldiers were then remembered with the greatest horror; and the peasants expressed the bitterest indignation against their own government for having prevented them from taking arms.

—not to render yourselves odious to mankind, but to assist your countrymen, to rescue your king from captivity: to restore to your government liberty, energy and vigor; to preserve your own lives and those of your children; to maintain the uncontrolled right of enjoying and disposing of your property; and to assert the independence of Spain.—The time is come; the nation has resumed the sovereign authority which, under such circumstances, devotes upon it.* Let us be worthy of ourselves. Let us perpetuate the renown of our fathers.—If she remains firm and constant, Spain will triumph. A whole people is more powerful than disciplined armies. Those who unite to maintain the independence of their country, must triumph over tyranny. Spain will inevitably conquer in a cause the most just that has ever raised the deadly weapons of war; for she fights, not for the concerns of a day, but for the security and happiness of ages; not for an insulated privilege, but for all the rights of human nature; not for temporal blessings, but for eternal happiness; not for the benefit of one nation, but for the benefit of all mankind, and even for France herself. Humanity does not always shudder at the sound of war,—the slow and interminable evils of slavery are a thousand times more to be abhorred; there is a kind of peace more fatal than the field of battle, drenched with blood, and strewn with the bodies of the slain. Such is the peace in which the metropolis of Spain is held by the enemy. The most respectable citizen there is exposed to the insolence of the basest French ruffian; at every step he has to endure at least the insult of being eyed with the disdain of the conqueror towards the conquered. The inhabitants of Madrid, strangers as it were, and by suzerainty in their own houses, cannot enjoy one moment's tranquillity. The public festivals, established by immemorial custom, the attendants on religious ordinances, are considered as pretexts for insurrection, and threatened with being interrupted by discharges of cannon.—The slightest noise makes the citizen tremble in the bosom of his family. From time to time the enemy runs to arms, in order to keep up the terror impressed by the massacres of the second and third of May. Madrid is a prison, where the jailors take pleasure in terrifying the prisoners, for the purpose of keeping them quiet by perpetual fear. But the Spaniards have not yet lost their country! those fields, which, for so many years, have seen no steel except that of the plough share, are about, amid the splendor of arms, to become the new cradle of their freedom!—Fly then to the field of honor!—Life or death, in such a cause, and in such times are indifferent. You who return will be received by your country as her deliverers! and

* We have uniformly thought on this subject that it would have been well for this unfortunate people, if they had preserved the authority which reverted to them upon the dereliction of the royal family. There is something absurd in the present plan of using the name of Ferdinand, who is probably as base a sycophant as any of the wretches that fawn upon Bonaparte. Besides, there is nothing in the old king or the young king worth fighting for, and the nobility and priesthood had become equally contemptible. The chains of rotten monarchy are probably riveted upon them again, and they have lost a glorious opportunity of establishing a government, calculated, like our own, to secure the true rights and real interests of humanity.

you whom heaven has destined to secure, with your blood, the independence of your native land—the honor of our women—the purity of our holy faith—you will not dread the anguish of the last moments. Remember what tears of grateful love will be shed over your graves—what fervent prayers will be sent up for you to the Almighty Father of mercies; who will hear such supplications, and grant you your reward of glory. **LET ALL SPAIN BECOME A CAMP**; let her population become an armed host: let our youths fly to the defence of the state, for the son should fall before the father appears in the ranks of battle; and you, tender mothers, affectionate wives, and fair maidens, do not retain within your embraces the objects of your love, until, from victory returned, they deserve your affection. They withdraw from you not to fight for a tyrant, but for their God, for a monarch worthy the veneration of his people; for yourselves and for your companions. Instead of regretting their departure, like the Spartan women, sing ye the song of jubilee!—The noble matrons, the delicate maidens, even the austere religious recluse nuns, must take a part in this holy cause: let them send up their prayers to Heaven for the success of our undertaking, and succor, in their domestic economy, the necessities of their warlike sons and brethren."

Their popular faith as well as their patriotism was aroused. They were told to implore the aid of the immaculate conception, of Santiago, so often the patron and companion in victory of their ancestors; of our lady of battles, whose image is worshipped in the most ancient temple of Covadonga, and who had there so signally assisted Pelayo in the first great overthrow of the Moorish invaders. The fire flamed the brighter for this holy oil for superstition; but it was kindled by a noble pride, and brave shame and indignation; by the remembrance of what their forefathers had been, and the thought of what their children were to be. While these leaders thus eloquently availed themselves of the popular faith they called upon the clergy for those sacrifices which the circumstances of the country rendered necessary.—"Venerable orders of religion," said they, "withhold not the supplies which are required for the support of the common cause. If your civic virtues did not impel you voluntarily to offer this assistance, your interest would extort it; for your incorporation sanctified by authority,—your political existence,—the possession of your property,—your individual security,—all depend upon the issue of this war. But Spain this day receives from those her favorite sons, proofs of their affection and gratitude, for the riches she has bestowed, and the splendor she has conferred, for her pious generosity, and her ardent zeal, in sustaining the religion and the customs of their fathers."—And to the honor of the clergy, no men exerted themselves more strenuously in the common cause; a conduct the more praiseworthy, after the submission of their primate, and the infamous part which the inquisition had taken.—The bishops of Oviedo and Santander distinguished themselves by their zeal and activity in Asturias and Biscay; and the venerable bishop of Orense, when summoned to attend Murat's assembly of notables at Bayonne, replied to the junta in a letter of mild and dignified remonstrance, which had scarcely less effect than the most animated military proclamation. In Napoleon, he said, Spain saw, or she thinks she sees the oppressor of her princes and of herself. She looks upon herself as enchained and enslaved, when happiness is offered to her. More than is worked by artifice, is done by violence, and by an army

which has been admitted as a friend, either by indiscretion or timidity, or perhaps by a vile treason which serves to give an authority that cannot easily be esteemed legitimate.—Who appointed the serene duke of Berg lieutenant governor of the kingdom?—Is it not an appointment made at Bayonne by an affectionate king, worthy all the respect and love of his vassals, but who is in the hands of persons imperious through the ascendancy which they have gained over his heart, and the force and power to which he is subjected? And is it not a deceitful illusion to name for lieutenant-general of this kingdom the commander of an army which threatens it, and immediately to abdicate the crown? Did Charles IV. wish to return to the throne merely to take it from his son? And was it necessary to name a lieutenant, who by his authority, and by a military force would impede every effort which might be made to avoid the consummation of a project of this nature. I doubt whether, not only in Spain, but in all Europe, there can be found one sincere person who would not cry out in his heart against such extraordinary, and, to say no more, such suspicious acts."

This letter from a venerable prelate in his seventy-third year, could not be read without shame by those who still hoped or affected to hope, for any amelioration in the state of Spain from Bonaparte,—for the bishop, addressed the emperor himself, as if he really possessed those talents for legislation, and that philosophy and benevolence, to which he lays claim, represented to him how impossible it was to do good for a nation by enslaving it;—how strongly all his proceedings towards it bore the character of usurpation and violence; and he besought him, whatever might be the disorders of Spain, not to persist in applying remedies to her in fetters, as she was not mad.

Among the persons who had accompanied Ferdinand to Bayonne was DON JOSEPH PALAFOX, the youngest of three brothers, of one of the most distinguished families in Aragon. He was about thirty-four years of age, had been all his life in the Spanish guards, without ever having seen actual service; and at Madrid, where his time had principally been past, was distinguished for the splendor and fashion of his appearance. At the revolution of Aranjuez, he was selected to be second in command, under the Marquis de Castellar, to whose custody the Prince de la Paz was committed: and had Palafox been present when that wretch was rescued from the justice of his country, it is probable he would not tamely have submitted to resign him. From Bayonne he escaped in the disguise of a peasant to his country seat near Zaragoza. The captain-general of Aragon, Guiliamab, was a traitor, and attempted to disarm the people; they seized him and threw him into prison; and the inhabitants of Zaragoza, and of the neighboring villages, conferred the government, by acclamation, upon Palafox. The neighboring provinces of Navarre and Catalonia were possessed by the French, the passes of the Pyrenees, leading directly into Aragon, were open, and Murat, with the main body of the French army, was on the other side at Madrid. Thus surrounded by the enemy, and in a defenceless city, the walls and gates of Zaragoza, being merely for the purpose of levying the customs, Palafox declared war against the French. The regular troops which he mustered amounted only to two hundred and twenty men, and the public treasury could furnish him with more than two thousand reals, a sum not equal to twenty English guineas. The proclamation which he issued (May 31) was distinguished

by its boldness. He declared "the French emperor, all the individuals of his family, and every French officer and general, personally responsible for the safety of king Ferdinand, his brother any uncle: that should the French army commit any robberies, devastations, and murders, either in Madrid or any other town, no quarter should be given to any of them: that all the acts of the present government, and the transactions at Bayonne, were illegal, null and void, and had been extorted by violence; that whatever might be done hereafter, by the royal family in France, should, for the same reason, be accounted null; and that all who took an active part in such transactions should be deemed traitors to their country. If any violence should be attempted against the lives of the royal family, he declared that the nation would make use of their elective right in favor of the arch duke Charles, as the nephew of Charles III. in case the other heirs should not be able to concur." This proclamation was not less remarkable for the prophetic suspicion which it expressed of some of those in whom the nation had confided, and who held the supreme power in their own hands. "They," he said, had been the first to form traitorous connections with the enemy of the country, and to work its ruin. Thirst of gold made them view its destruction with indifference; though now, perhaps, when the resolution of the people was known, they might change their purpose, affect a zeal for the right cause, and endeavor to shake off the yoke which they themselves had tied to impose upon their country by means the most iniquitous. "Should I be mistaken," said Palafox, "time will discover the truth. As for myself," addressing the Arragonese, "my life, which can only be of any value to me as far as it can promote your happiness and the prosperity of my beloved country, is the smallest sacrifice I can make for the many proofs of confidence and love with which you have honored me. My mind is neither able to harbor treachery, nor to associate with those who cherish and protect it."

Catalonia and Navarre, were in the possession of the French:—every where else the insurrection broke out. The captain-general of Grenada was deprived of his command, for endeavoring to suppress the public spirit. At Carthagea a similar revolution was effected. Count Florida Blanca, at the age of fourscore, came from the retirement where he had designed to pass the remainder of his days in peace and piety, to proclaim Ferdinand in Murcia and hoist the standard of independence.—The people of Valencia burnt the paper which had been stamped in Murat's name,—stopped several chests of money which were on their way to Madrid,—and elected the count of Cervallon for their governor. In this state of things, it was necessary that there should be some seat of actual government, to which the nation could look, and this rank was occupied by Seville. The inhabitants of Seville assembled in arms, (May 27) and, by virtue of that right which was inherent in the people, called upon the constituted authorities to appoint a supreme board of government. The choice fell upon men able, enlightened and truly patriotic, who instantly began their work with zeal and wisdom. Their first measure was to establish in all the towns within their jurisdiction, containing 2000 house-holders, corresponding juntas, who were to enlist all the inhabitants between the ages of 16 and 45, and embody them.—Funds were to be raised by order of the supreme junta, on all corporations and rich individuals, and above all, by voluntary contributions. They declared war against the emperor Napoleon

and against France, in the name of Ferdinand and of all the Spanish nation, protesting that they would not lay down their arms till that emperor restored to them the whole of their royal family, and respected the rights, liberty and independence of the nation which he had violated. This, said they, we declare with the understanding and accordance of the Spanish people.—By the same declaration, they made it known that they had contracted an armistice with England, and that they hoped to conclude a lasting peace.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Lord Sheffield.

If any reflecting American can take up Lord Sheffield's book entitled, "*Observations on the commerce of the American States*," published in 1783, and examine his prognostics, suppositions and say-so's, as to the future and then existing situation of our country, without laughing outright at his absurdities, he must possess a small portion, indeed, of the spirit of *Democritus*. The book was made for the purpose of reconciling the British nation to the loss of a purpose exceedingly well, perhaps got his lordship their colonies and, for aught we know then, answered a pension. But on reading it,—seeing his nobility made us dependent (may, nearly swore, we should forever continue to be so) upon his country for almost every article our necessities or luxuries demanded, I was rather surprised that his lordship did not include *tobacco, potatoes and Indian corn* among the things we should be compelled to import from England,—“at least for many ages!”—to use one of his favorite terms.

On the 26th of July last, at the “great wool fair in Leeds,” his lordship presided, and made his annual report—stating, in substance, as follows:

That the manufactures in Wiltshire, Somersetshire and Gloucestershire, and their neighborhoods, are in general employed, and, as it is called, at fair work, on the finest Spanish wools.

That, though no considerable quantities of superfine cloth had been exported to foreign countries, they were actually scarce, from the great consumption of them by British subjects.

That the foreign wool imported in 1810, amounted to 10,921,000 *lbs.* the greatest importation ever known except in 1807.

That the official value of woolen goods exported in 1810 was £5,774,214—exceeding the value of the exports of 1809 by £350,000—and that the annual average value of woolen goods exported for forty years back was no more than £4,662,523.

That the exports of cloth to *America* in the early part of that year were very great, in anticipation of a renewal of the non-importation law.

That the East and West India demands were the same as usual; but that very little business was doing with Germany, Holland and the North of Europe.

That it was demonstrated as good wool could be raised in England as could be imported—he, therefore, proposed that a duty of 1s. per lb. should be laid on all foreign wool; this would have produced a revenue the last year of £346,500.

That the scarcity of gold arose chiefly from the importation of *grain and wool*—that the deficiency of grain in 1796 brought on the bank restrictions in 1797—that the annual average value of grain imported, from that year to the present, amounted to seven millions of pounds—which, with the foreign wool received, caused an unnecessary yearly drain of ten millions *per annum*.

His lordship goes on, and says—

"I fear some of these details will appear superfluous, but they are necessary to justify and explain some conclusions that I mean to draw from them:—

"That the demand for woollens for the home market is not diminished, but probably much increased, and that the export of them is much increased also.

"That, comparatively, with the whole amount of the manufacture, the demand for foreign countries with which we are now at war, was not considerable.

"That it is not the decay of the manufacture, or the want of demand for it, but difficulties respecting money and the great stock of wool in hand, that occasion the debasement in price.

"That speculations in foreign wools, and the extravagant variations of price, have deranged the trade and manufacture of that article; but those wools being now reduced to their former price, and the manufacture of them being principally for the home market, there is little doubt of its being restored to its former state.

"That the scarcity of gold is not to be attributed merely to the war, to the particular conduct of the enemy, nor to the hostile and unfriendly conduct of the American states, but in a great degree to bad policy in our interior management.

"That through the want of a due encouragement of agriculture and the cultivation of waste lands, this country has paid during the last 15 years, considerably more than £ 10,000,000 sterling yearly, for grain and wool, which might have been raised in the united kingdom.

"That the great import of grain in 1796, occasioned a drain of gold, much more than foreign subsidies, and in a great degree brought on the bank restriction in 1797, and that the value of grain imported in the years 1800 and 1801, amount to £ 19,000,000 sterling.

"That large quantities of gold coin are not necessary to commerce, as appears from the example particularly of *Holland and Scotland*, which countries had a very small quantity of coin in their most flourishing state.

"That the restoration of confidence is more wanted than any other circumstance to promote the woollen manufacture."

The meeting appeared very much satisfied with the report.

The wool buyers acknowledged the fairness and correctness of the statement: they said they had suffered so much, that the trade could not afford even the reduced prices proposed by his lordship, and they alluded to the non importation law of the American states. Lord Sheffield insisted "that the home consumption, and the export trade, being both increased, there was no ground for a reduction of the price given of late years for the *South Down* wool, except that of the market being overstocked with foreign wool. That he was satisfied that if a non-intercourse with the American states should continue for a time through a partiality for France, or the wrongheadedness of a party in the American states, it will not be general. The people of that country will not go naked through their affliction to the French, or enmity to this country. It does not appear, he said, that they can get clothing from any other country at present, nor will it be possible for them, for a long time, to manufacture sufficiently for themselves: and this is most certain, that they cannot get payment for their produce or mer-

chandise but through this country, and that the united kingdom can get every article of the American states' produce or merchandise full as good and cheap, from other countries."

Though his lordship's fine theories and positive assertions are cut up by the roots by the simple observation of the wool buyers, we are content to let them pass for what they are worth, without any comment. But we regret to see such miserable stuff re-published in an American paper with strong marks of approbation, and recommended to the perusal of our members of congress! It is notorious that *Sheffield* is among the most rancorous enemies we have in Europe; understood as hostile to us in every particular; and eagerly embracing every occasion to speak falsely of us and our country, as is shewn in all his works. He never will forgive us our "rebellion"—would fetter our trade by every means in his power; and seems as though he would move heaven and earth to check our prosperity.

Newspapers.

Thomas' "History of Printing" gives a list of the newspapers published in the United States, in the commencement of the year 1810.—Of these, N. Hampshire has 12 Virginia 24 Massachusetts 38 North-Carolina 10 Rhode-Island 7 South-Carolina 10 Connecticut 11 Georgia 13 Vermont 14 Kentucky 17 New-York 66 Tennessee 6 Pennsylvania 71 Ohio* 14 Delaware 2 Indiana Territory 1 Maryland 21 Mississippi Territory 1 New-Jersey 8 Orleans Territory 10 Dist. of Columbia 4 Louisiana Territory 1

In all 364!!—Of these, 19 are duplicates (being country papers;) 9 were published before the revolution: 25 are daily; 16 thrice weekly; 33 semi-weekly; 262 weekly; 8 are printed in German; 5 in French; 2 in Spanish; 158 Republican; 157 Federal, and the rest neuter.

We venture to say, that no country in the world presents such a number and variety of public prints. This is the fruit of that free and elective government which distinguishes the United States.

The number of newspapers printed in England is also very great. It is collected from the records of the stamp-office, which must give rather above than below the real extent of the circulation. From this source it appears that

In 1790, there were published,	14,035,653
1791,	14,794,153.
1792,	15,005,766
In the year 1808, there were published in London,	
Daily morning papers,	9
Daily evening papers,	7
Three times a week,	9
On Sundays,	17
Once a week, on other days,	19—61
Country papers in England	98
Papers in Ireland	35
Papers in Scotland,	19

Total in England, Ireland and Scotland 213

We have formed the succeeding estimate of the newspapers annually published in the United States, for the purpose of contrasting it with the statement of the number published in England.

* The first settlement in this state was about the year 1758.

25 "daily" papers, averaging 1000 each, published 311 days in each year, deducting Sundays and Christmas and the fourth of July, give per annum

19 "duplicates," generally published three times in a week, issued from the offices of the daily papers, will average 300 each, published 156 days in the year

16 "thrice weekly," averaged at 1500 each, published upon 156 days

33 "semi weekly," at 1000 each, for 104 publications,

262 "weekly," at 750 each—for 52 ditto

Grand total

Papers.

7,775,000

889,200

3,584,000

3,432,000

9,542,000

25,222,200

The preceding calculation is formed on reasonable data—and is rather under than above the number actually printed in the United States, every year. To which should be added, to aid the comparison, an estimated number of *supplements* and *extras*, all of which, issued from the British press, are liable to the stamp duty, and therefore computed; but not taken into view in the foregoing aggregate.

It results, that in the United States there are published 364 newspapers, for a [white] population of about 6 millions of souls—and, in Great Britain and Ireland, 213, for 16 millions. From the American press, making an allowance for *supplements* and *extras*, there are annually issued, at least, twenty-six millions of newspapers; from the English press about fifteen millions—for, though the calculation of the latter is as far back as the year 1792, there are many reasons to believe (among them, chiefly, the great advance of their prices, and the increased difficulty of the people to obtain a livelihood) that the number of newspapers printed in England has not been augmented since then.

We recollect to have seen, sometime since, an estimate of the number printed in France, and should be glad to annex it—but that estimate was formed long before Bonaparte's gothic decree respecting the press, and would be unapt to the present times.

South America.

From the following account of arrivals at Cadiz, in the year 1809, from South America, and list of the cargoes of the vessels, some general idea may be obtained of the immensely valuable product of that extensive country. But in forming a mental estimate, it ought to be considered, that during this time many of the provinces were in a state of revolution, or actual revolt, from the mother country, and that, in others, the state of Spain herself, uncertain, as she still is, of her destiny, must have forbidden that free and unreserved intercourse which, in more peaceable times, it must be supposed, would have existed.

From Lagaira there arrived at Cadiz, in the year 1809, 39 vessels; Buenos Ayres, 29; Cumana, 6; Havana, 71; Vera Cruz, 43; Port Cavello, 9; Carthagen, 7; Santa Martha, 1; Porto Rico, 9; Lima, 6; Oronoke, 1; Santiago de Cuba, 2; Guayana, 1; Maricaoibo, 6; Mantanzas, 4; Guatemala, 2;—making in all, 230, many of which were exceedingly large and burthensome—in all which was imported—

Black tin 3,736 quintals
Pecupio 1,288 do.

Braziletto	870	quintals
Cotton	7,725	do.
Jallap	3,572	do.
Logwood (Campeachy)	29,029	do.
Copper	21,849	do.
Tallow	5,207	do.
Cochineal	13,864	Arrobas of 25lbs.
Granilla, or Sylvester	874	do
Sugar (principally Havana)	1,191,956	idem
Sarsaparilla	15,394	do.
Iudigo (chiefly Flotant)	1,312,650	lbs.
Coffee	2,094,922	do.
Jesuit's bark	3,023,277	do.
Pimento	453,800	do.
Cocoa (Caracas)	75,550	Fenegas
Do. (Guayaquil, Peru)	21,239	of 110lbs
Hides	346,189	
Do. for soals	7,999	
Do. tanned	2,364	
Do. horse	19,300	
Horn tips	283,900	
Horns	34,412	
Guanaco wool	47	bales about 300 lbs.
Hellebore Pultis (Helebore)	27	
Vienna wool	17	
Tortoise shell	33	boxes of 100 lbs
Gum Copal	341	do.
Achiote, the seed of a tree in South America, used as a dye	66	
Salt beef	5,919	barrels
Segars, in sugar boxes equal to 20 of the ordinary size	1,529	boxes
Snuff in idem	271	
Do. in parchment	2,971	bales 100lbs.

The above imports have been estimated at a value of more than twenty millions of dollars—besides which, \$27,400,341, were received at the custom-house, in specie; making a grand total of nearly fifty millions—to this aggregate should be added many millions in specie and goods, clandestinely received by individuals.

Congress.

A writer in the *Fredonian* has introduced the following table to give a comparative view of the number of senators and representatives from the several states, by the census of 1800 and 1810—supposing the present ratio (33,000 inhabitants to a representative) will be retained.

Senators and Representatives in 1800	1810
New Hampshire	7 8
Vermont	6 8
Massachusetts, and Maine	19 23
Connecticut	9 9
Rhode-Island	4 4
New-York	19 31
New Jersey	8 9
Pennsylvania	20 26
Delaware	3 4
Maryland	11 13
Virginia	24 29
North Carolina	14 17
South Carolina	11 13
Georgia	6 9
Tennessee	5 9
Ohio	3 8
Kentucky	8 14
Orleans, should it adopt a state gov.	0 3

The British Parliament.

As immediately connected with the remarks in the last number of the REGISTER, the following statement of the durations of the several parliaments, in the reign of the present king may be acceptable:

New parliament in 1761	New parliament in 1790
ditto - - 1768	ditto - - 1796
ditto - - 1774	ditto - - 1802
ditto - - 1780	ditto - - 1806
ditto - - 1784	ditto - - 1807

Austrian Statistics.

Anterior to the famous treaty of *Pilsnitz*, and the first war against France, by which that country was to have been partitioned among the royal conspirators as *Poland* was, the dominions of the house of Austria were designated as follows:—

1. The whole circle of Austria, containing the archduchy of Austria, the duchies of Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, the Tyrol and Vorarlberg, Friul, the territory of Triest, Salzburg, and some other small states	Square miles	Population	Revenue, in dollars.
2. The kingdom of Bohemia	44,528	5,200,000	17,163,000
3. The marquisate of Moravia	15,376	2,806,493	6,216,000
4. The kingdom of Hungary	6,836	1,256,240	1,943,600
5. Austrian Silesia	59,536	6,300,000	9,002,130
6. Do. Netherlands	1,290	250,000	278,604
7. Lombardy [Italy]	7,504	2,000,000	1,592,067
8. Illyria, with Istria, &c.	3,072	1,324,000	1,454,585
9. Transylvania	12,928	1,330,000	1,200,000
10. The Buckowine	2,900	130,000	200,000
11. Galicia and Lodomeria [Poland]	37,000	3,903,297	6,000,000
12. Slavonia	10,000	250,000	274,000
13. Croatia & Dalmatia	8,000	770,000	600,000
14. Principality of Swabia	1,600	200,000	350,000
Total	226,876	26,970,030	48,244,009

Besides those enumerated there were some small states or territories which are generally included in the estimates to which they seemed most properly to belong.

It was well observed by a late writer that the "geography of Germany is the most perplexed of any region in the globe." After a whole day's hard labor, we are tempted to cast our work under foot; so contradictory and confused were the various statements to which we referred, though some of them are of late date, and apparently worthy of credit. In several instances we have taken the liberty to judge for ourselves; and formed estimates from the circumstances and facts as they appear before us:—and, on the whole, are tempted to conclude that the preceding schedule is, perhaps, as correct as any other.

By the several wars with France, Austria has lost the following countries—being severally annexed to the French empire or attached to some of the new made kingdoms of *Italy*, *Bavaria*, *Saxony*, *Westphalia*, *Wurtemberg*: the grand duchy of *Warsaw*, &c. as we shall attempt more particularly to describe on some future occasion when speaking of these states.

	Square miles.	Population.	Revenue in dollars.
1. Part of upper Austria	2,550	218,710	600,000
2. The Netherlands	7,504	2,000,000	1,592,067
3. Lombardy	3,072	1,324,000	1,454,585
4. Illyria with Istria, &c.	12,928	1,330,000	1,200,000
5. The Buckowine	2,900	130,000	200,000
6. Galicia and Lodomeria.	37,000	3,903,297	6,000,000
7. Croatia and Dalmatia.	8,000	770,000	600,000
8. Salzburg and Berchtsgalden	3,772	450,000	400,000
9. The Brigau, &c.	832	115,000	130,000
10. Carinthia†	3,100	300,000	1,193,442
11. Carniola†	3,518	400,000	1,044,976
12. The Tyrol, Vorarlberg	6,960	610,000	1,829,355
Totals	192,136	11,551,007	16,244,426

If these statements may be depended upon, there remains to Austria, 134,740 square miles, 15,519,023 inhabitants; and a revenue of \$31,999,573.

Since the first war against France, the former Venetian territory east of the Adige, with the capital city, was ceded to Austria by France, in exchange, but, as it has since been lost to her, no notice is taken of it.

Miscellaneous.

A NOVEL PROCESSION.—At the *Berkshire cattle show* in Pittsfield, (Mass.) a procession was formed on the public square, and proceeded through the principal streets in the following order:

Sixty yoke of prime oxen, connected by chains, and drawing a plough held by Charles Goodrich, Esq. and Mr. Nathaniel Fairfield, being the two most aged farmers present.

Farmers of the country carrying a flag, representing a sheaf of wheat on one side and a plough on the other.

A large stage drawn by oxen, carrying on it a large broad cloth loom, with a flying shuttle and a spinning jenny of 40 spindles—both of these machines in actual operation by skillful workmen.

Mechanics of the country carrying a flag, representing a ram on one side, and a shuttle on the other.

A large stage drawn by horses, carrying on it various specimens of Berkshire manufactures, among which were a number of rolls of broad cloth, rolls of sail duck, handsome rose blankets, muskets, &c. with the flags of the United States and of this commonwealth, displayed on it.

Officers and members of the Berkshire Agricultural Society, with heads of wheat (being the badge of the society) in their hats.

The whole was attended and regulated by the marshal of the day on horseback (Mr. Sheriff Larned) together with four deputy marshals, all mounted on white horses, and carrying the badges of their office. The members of the Pittsfield band of music accompanied and enlivened the procession.

A number of premiums were awarded by the Berkshire Agricultural Society, according to previous regulations.

† The revenue stated to be received from these countries appears too great for the population compared with the others districts. It is true, they contain mineral productions of great value, which materially affect it, and may produce the given aggregates.

The society have also resolved to pay certain premiums upon household manufactured woolen cloths, to be exhibited in January next.

SEA TURTLE.

A few days since, a curious sea turtle, whose dimensions were minutely taken under the eye of Dr. Samuel Mitchell, was caught about 30 miles S. E. of Sandy-Hook, and brought to New-York. When struck with a harpoon he took a slanting direction and soon run out all the line to which it was made fast, and came well nigh to take the boat under. It is a *Testudo Caviaria* or *Leather tortoise*, a native of the East Indies, and the first seen on our coast. He very soon died in consequence of his wound; but was purchased for Scudder's museum.

DIMENSIONS.	Feet	Inches.
Length from the extremity of the snout to the end of the tail,	7	6
Length of the buckler between the neck and tail,	5	8
Girth of the body,	8	0
Circumference of the buckler,	13	2
Do. do. neck,	3	5
Do. do. fore fin above the joint	2	5
Do. do. fore fin at the joint,	2	8
Length of the fore fin,	3	9 1-2
Length of the neck and head from the buckler,	1	7 1-2
Distance between the extreme tips of the two fore fins,	8	5
Breadth of the buckler,	3	10 1-2
Length of the hinder fin,	2	1
Distance between the extreme tips of the two hinder fins,	5	5
Length of the tail,	1	0
Circumference of the tail in the middle,	1	5
Projection of the tail beyond the buckler	0	4
Width of the mouth across from corner to corner,	0	10
Distance from the upper to the lower extremity of the jaws when the mouth was wide open	0	9 1-2
Circumference of the eye-ball after extraction from the socket,	0	5 1-2
His weight when taken was supposed to be rising 9 cwt. but from the loss of blood previous to his death, he weighed only 8 cwt.		

THE COMET.

Time whose wheels are constantly rolling forward, has brought to our view a comet of our system, which perhaps has been for hundreds of years flying with inconceivable velocity through the vast fields of ether, millions of miles beyond the ken of mortal sight. It is in our meridian, and about in our zenith at 12 o'clock, and may be seen in the N. W. about 7 in the evening. Its tail at present may be computed at 785,000 miles in length, and is constantly increasing as the comet approaches the sun.

The human mind, uncultivated with science, is hurried by a thousand emotions, when they view this uncommon blaze of light streaming through the azure concave. But few of us now living have ever had an opportunity of seeing one of those splendid orbs of Heaven's architect though it is understood there are twenty-one comets belonging to our system, which perform their revolution round the sun in every direction in longer and shorter periods. However only three of the above have been calculated to any degree of certainty.

Comets are solid bodies like our earth; they perform their revolutions in vast ecliptic orbits, which brings them nearer to the sun in one part of their revolution. Whenever they approach the sun there are fine streams of light, which seem to issue from the body of the comet in the form of a tail, and are considered to arise from the intense heat they receive from the sun. These tails diminish as the comet recedes from the sun, and finally disappear.

The comet that appeared in 1680, in its nearest approach, came within forty-nine thousand miles of the sun's body: at which time the heat of the sun on the comet must have been 2000 times hotter than red hot iron. No substance that we are acquainted with in our world could have endured such a degree of heat. Its tail at this time measured more than 80,000,000 of miles in length. We may calculate that this comet is now beyond the planetary system, on its way through the vast expanse, till it shall arrive to the amazing distance of 10,000 millions of miles beyond the orb of the planet Saturn, at which distance it will arrive in the year 1967, and then begin its return forwards to the sun again. Some of the ancients concluded that the comets were so many hells to torment the damned, by the extreme vicissitude of heat and cold;—but we know not but these opaque bodies may be habitations for rational creatures suited to such climes.

What an august idea does it give of our system! yet if our sun with all the planets belonging to the system were to be annihilated, they would no more be missed by an eye that could take in the whole universe, than a grain of sand taken from the sea shore. Let us then in the language of inspiration, cry out—"What is man, that thou art mindful of him."

[N. Courier.

MISSISSIPPI.

Though the following is not of a late date, its value is not, on that account, diminished—the nature of the facts it communicates, justly entitles it to a place in the REGISTER.

PORT GIBSON, (*Natchez*), Dec. 8th, 1809.—The senior class of the school, near port Gibson, proceeded to the Mississippi on the 28th ult. to measure the quantity of water that descends that river in a given time. They constructed a graphometer with so great a radius, that they ascertained angles to the fraction of a minute, and a log line, with which they measured the velocity of the stream.

The position they took was about a mile and a half below the Grand Gulf where the river was 1576 feet wide and never swells above its banks.—They sounded the bottom seven times and as often took the velocity of the current. The greatest depth was twenty fathoms, and greatest velocity not quite three miles an hour. The quantity that descends here in a minute is 673,400 tons, and 40,404,000 in an hour. If these respective numbers be multiplied, by 2,44, &c. the quantity will arise which descends at the common height of the annual inundations; on the supposition that the velocity is then accumulated one-third, and the depth thirty feet greater.

They then proceeded to the Grand Gulf, to measure an abyss which strikes the distant navigator with dread. But in the present stage of the waters it is stripped of all its terrors. Above, the stream moves easterly with a velocity of three miles an hour at right angles against a high bluff of soft, imperfect stone; whence it results at an angle of sixty-one degrees through a contracted span of two

thousand feet, to the western shore; hence the accumulated waters seek an equilibrium by a retrograde current in a wide semicircular basin on the east. The eddy on the west, is feeble, and scarcely perceptible. The line between the two currents is distinctly marked by the perpetual ebullition of the conflicting waters. The basin is seventeen fathoms deep, is covered with innumerable small vortices, and has a velocity of one mile and one and a half an hour, which is greatly increased by the swell of the river. In the Grand Gulph, however, there is nothing but the name formidable to the navigator.

The bluff is here two hundred and sixteen feet high, the direct channel is forty four and a half fathoms deep, and the whole bed of the river of solid rock. While the Mississippi therefore is every where else perpetually receding from one bed and forming another, it has probably flowed on the same here for ages and will for ages to come.

The Chronicle.

Michael Keppele, Esq. is elected mayor of Philadelphia, vice Robert Wharton, Esq. declined.

Lisbon is really stuffed with American produce, if "extracts of letters" are to be believed. On the 7th of September last, there were at that port, for sale, 170,000 barrels of flour; 720,000 bushels of corn; 300,000 bushels of oats; 800,000 bushels of barley; 30,000 barrels of rye meal; 25,000 barrels corn meal, with great quantities of biscuit, beef, pork, &c.

We have no intelligence, since our last, from the armies in Spain and Portugal. Wellington's headquarters were at Fuentes Guinaldo in Spain—reinforcements are constantly arriving from England.

It is said that John Quincy Adams has declined to accept his appointment to the bench of the supreme court of the United States.

We learn that the Spanish commandant of Mobile has received positive orders from the captain-general of Cuba to refuse a passage to armed vessels, or powder belonging to the United States. If the attempt is made, as we claim a right to the free navigation of the Mobile river, it may justly be presumed the Spaniards will be expelled from the territory.

A new road is to be opened by the United States troops on the S. W. frontier, from Baton Rouge to Fort Stoddard. The distance from Fort Stoddard to Tennessee, is 280 miles; to Fort Hawkins, 359 miles, to Milledgeville, Geo. 360 miles.

The commissioners appointed by the legislature, at their last session, to view the northern and southern turnpike routes from Harrisburgh to Pittsburg, on the 4th instant, deposited their report, with a correct draft accompanying the same, in the office of the secretary of the commonwealth, by which they have unanimously established the southern route.

The distances are:	Miles	Per.
Northern route,	214	60
Southern do. by Chambersburg,	193	25
Middle do.	188	22

The Boston Patriot mentions—that a gentleman, a few days since, in paying his first instalment to the State Bank observed, "that the money (gold) had been in his possession ever since the siege" [of Boston.]

It is said, that the country at present forming the territory of Orleans, lately authorised by congress to be erected into a state, is to be called WASHINGTON.

Maryland election.—The following is the state of parties in the House of Delegates, lately elected.

Republicans.		Federalists.	
Harford	4	Montgomery	4
Baltimore (city)	2	Prince George's	4
— county	4	Calvert	4
Anne Arundle	4	Charles	4
Annapolis (city)	2	St. Mary's	4
Frederick	4	Kent	4
Washington	4	Somerset	4
Cecil	4	Worcester	4
Queen Ann's	4	Dorset	1
Talbot	4	Alleghany	3
Caroline	4		
Dorset	3		56
Alleghany	1		
	44		

Delaware election.—The legislature of this state is composed, as usual, of six federalists and three republicans in the senate, and 14 federalists and 7 republicans in the house of representatives. At the late election the average majority for the federal ticket, in

Kent county, was	122
Sussex ———	615

Rep. maj. in New-Castle 697

Fed. maj. in the state 40

New-Jersey election.—From a general statement it appears that the republican majority in the legislature is greater than it was last year.

George Washington Campbell, Esq. is elected a senator of the United States, from Tennessee, vice J. Whitesides, Esq. resigned.

A ship of 450 tons has lately been launched in the Scioto river! The steam boat of Ohio is to carry 400 tons!!

The Editor's Department.

¶ There is still a complete dearth of politics and news.

That portion of the manifesto of Caracas which appears in this number, is rather tedious and uninteresting—yet it is one of those matters which ought to be registered—the latter part is full of animation and spirit; and details some important things. The *expose* of the French empire is an article coming so immediately within our plan, that, though some parts of it have already been published in many of the newspapers, we could not refrain from inserting a document so necessary to direct our judgment as to the state of that country.

We have occasion to present our thanks to the usual number of new subscribers received during the last week. The continued accession to our list has induced us to commence re-printing the first numbers, though we have yet a few complete sets which will be sent to new subscribers. Gentlemen desirous to use the *perfect liberty* allowed them by the terms of the prospectus, and relinquish the work, on or before the publication of the 13th number, are respectfully informed that a very liberal price will be allowed for the numbers received by them, if sent to the office, (in good order) within two weeks of this date. We hope, and are flattered to believe, however, that few will quit us so soon, though we do not expect to please every individual. Some communications will be noticed in our next.