

Foreign Articles.

London papers received at the office of the Commercial Advertiser, LONDON, January 10.

Sir F. Burdett and Cobbett.—The following correspondence, which has taken place between Cobbett and Sir Francis Burdett—has excited much curiosity.

To Mr. TIPPER. North Hampstead Long Island? Nov. 20th, 1817.

My dear Sir—First let me acknowledge my deep sense of the kind manner in which you have uniformly spoken to Mrs. Cobbett with regard to me; and then, without further waste of that time of which I have so little to spare, let me come to business, and let me lay down before I proceed to our own particular affair, some principles which I hold to be just to my conduct towards my creditors in general.

If there be any man who can pretend, for one moment, that mine is an ordinary case, and that not having enough to pay every body, I ought to be regarded as an insolvent debtor, in the usual acceptation of the words; and if he does this after being apprized that the whole force of an infamous tyranny was embodied into the shape of despotic ordinances, intended for the sole purpose of taking from me the real and certain and increasing means of paying off every debt and mortgage in two years; if there be any man whose prosperity and whose means of profitably employing his own industry, have remained wholly unshaken and unaffected by these despotic and sudden acts of the government, and who is yet so insensible to all feelings of humanity, as well as so willingly blind to every principle of either moral or political justice! If there be any man who, wholly absorbed in his attachment to his own immediate interest, is ready to cast blame on a debtor, who has his means of paying cut off by an operation as decisive as that of an earthquake, which should sink into eternal nothing his lands, his houses, and his goods; if there be any man who, if he had been a creditor of Job, would have insisted that celebrated object of a malignant Devil's wrath, which had swept away his flocks, his herds, his sons and his daughters, was an insolvent debtor and a bankrupt, and ought to have been considered as such, spoken of as such, and as such provided against: If there be any such man as this, to whom I owe any thing, to such man I first say that I dispise him from the bottom of my soul: and then I say, that if he dare meet me before the world in open and written charge, I pledge myself to cover him with as much shame and infamy as that world can be brought to deign to bestow upon so contemptible a being. For such occasions as the one here supposed, if such occasions should ever occur, I reserve the arguments and conclusion which the subject would naturally suggest. To you I trust no such arguments are necessary, and therefore I will now proceed to state, explicitly, my intentions with regard to what I shall endeavour to do in the way of paying off debts. I hold it to be perfectly just that I should never, in any way whatever, give up one single farthing of my future earnings to the payment of any debt in England.

When the society is too weak or unwilling to defend the property, whether mental or of a more ordinary and vulgar species, and where there is not the will or the power in the society to yield him protection, he becomes clearly absolved of all his engagements, of every sort, to that society; because in every bargain of every kind it is understood that both the parties are to continue to enjoy the protection of the laws of property.

But from the great desire which I have, not only to return to my native country, but also to prevent the infamous acts levelled against me from injuring those person with whom I have pecuniary engagements, and some of whom have become my creditors, from feelings of friendship, and a desire to serve me, I eagerly waive all claim to this principle, and I shall neglect no means within my power fully to pay and satisfy every demand, as far as that can be done consistently with that duty which calls on me to take care that my family have the means of fairly exerting their industry, and of leading that sort of life to which they have a just claim.

It is clear, however, that to do any thing in the way of paying off must be a work of some little time. I place great dependence on the produce of some literary labours of great and general utility; and it is of these that I am now about more particularly to speak, and to make you, Sir, a distinct proposition.

(The remainder of the letter is occupied in explanations relative to two works, the materials of which were to be transmitted in two months from the date of the letter.—The first is an improved edition of "Le Mache Anglois," for teaching Frenchmen English, the second a new work, called "The French Master," for teaching Englishmen French.)

To Sir Francis Burdett Bart.

SIR—I enclose you the copy of a letter to Mr. Tipper, which I beg you to have the goodness to read, and to consider the contents of it (as far as they relate to the liquidation of my debts generally) as addressed to yourself. In addition you will be pleased to understand, that, as to the debt due to you, no pains shall be spared by me to obtain the means of paying it as soon as possible: and I beg that you will furnish Mr. White, my attorney, with your charge against me including interest, that he may transmit it to me.

I now transmit to Mr. White, Wright's note of hand. It must be endorsed by you before I can proceed against Wright. This rascal always contended that he borrowed the money on his own account. Your word was quite sufficient to prove the contrary; and though no part of it was ever made use of for me, and though the arbitrator determined against my being at all responsible, I thought myself, and still think myself, bound to pay you, you putting me in a condition to recover the money from him, which you can at once do by endorsing the note of hand. I am well aware the grounds of complaint and reproach to which debtors always expose themselves, and I am not vain enough to expect to escape consequences to which all others are liable; but if I finally pay to the last farthing, those grounds will be all swept away; and as I am in no doubt of being able, in a short space of time, to pay every one fully, I anticipate with great satisfaction the day of my deliverance from this sort of thral-

dom. I am Sir your most obedient and most humble servant.

Wm. COBBETT.

The reply of Sir F. Burdett to Mr. Wm. Cobbett.

St. James's-place, Jan. 31, 1818. Sir,—I have just received yours of the 20th of November, and carefully, and according to your desire, perused the enclosed to Mr. Tipper.

It is not my intention to enter into any controversy respecting the honesty or dishonesty of paying or not paying debts, according to the convenience, of the party owing. It seems that if it should ever suit your convenience and take nothing from the comforts and enjoyments of yourself and family, such comforts and enjoyments, and means too of distinguishing themselves, as you think they are entitled to, all this being previously secured, then you think yourself bound to pay your debts: if, on the contrary, that cannot be effected without sacrifices on your and their part, in that case your creditors have no claim to prefer and you no duty to perform. You then stand absolved, rectus in foro conscientiae, and for this singular reason, because those who lent you their money when you were in difficulty and distress, in order to save you and your family from ruin, were and are unable to protect you either against your own fears or the power of an arbitrary government, under which they have the misfortune to live, and to which they are equally exposed. These principles, which are laughable in theory, are detestable in practice. That you should not only entertain and act upon, but openly avow them, and blind your own understanding, or think to blind that of others, by such flimsy pretences, is one more melancholy proof of the facility with which self interest can assume the mask of hypocrisy, and by means of the weakest sophistry, over power the strongest understanding. How true is our common law maxim, that no man is an upright judge in his own cause; how truly and prettily said by the French, "La Nature se pipe;" nor less truly, though more grossly in English, "Nature's her own lawd."

In expressing my abhorrence of the principle you lay down for your conduct, and concerning which you challenge my opinion a little unfairly, considering the ridicule with which you at the same time threatened to overwhelm the unfortunate wight who presumes to differ from them, I do not desire that you should act upon any other with regard to me; I should be sorry your family were put to any inconvenience on my account; should your circumstances ever prove so prosperous as to enable you to discharge your debts without infringing upon those new principles of moral obligation you have adopted, which for the first time since the commencement of the world have, I believe, been frequently acted on, openly promulgated. As to complaint or reproach, they are the offspring of weakness and folly; disdain should stifle them; but nothing can or ought to stifle the expression of disgust every honest mind must feel at the want of integrity in the principles you proclaim, and of feeling and generosity in the sentiments you express. I am, Sir, your most obedient and most humble servant.

F. BURDETT.

SPANISH DECREE.

By a decree of the Spanish government, dated January 14, 1819, and published in the Lisbon Gazette, the king has declared, that every foreigner found in arms, aiding the people of South America, or supplying them with munitions of war, shall be punished with DEATH! and their property confiscated, and shall not be included among those to whom a general pardon has been, or shall be tendered!

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

House of Lords, Feb. 5. The duke of Wellington presented a petition from certain merchants of Dublin against the Roman Catholic claims. It was read, and laid upon the table.

On motion of Lord Sidmouth, a Committee of Privileges was ordered, in case of Lord Mountnorris claiming the title of Earl of Anglesea.

Lord Kenyon gave notice of a motion for Friday next, to inquire into the health of children working in cotton manufactories.—Adjourned.

BANK RESTRICTION.

Mr. H. Davis presented a petition from certain merchants and bankers of Bristol, against too speedy resumption of cash payments. The bankers had signed the petition only in their characters as merchants.

The petition was, after some conversation, laid upon the table.

From the Londonderry Journal.

Tuesday, Feb. 9. The first division in the new house of commons took place on Tuesday night last, on a motion of Mr. Tierney, for a committee to enquire into the state of exchanges, and the currency of the country. The Chancellor of the exchequer moved an amendment, which was carried by a large majority, which shows that the Ministers are likely to be as well supported in the present as during the last parliament.

Advices have been received from Ceylon, by the way of Madras, communicating the important intelligence of the capture of the Malabar chief claimant of the crown of Candy, who is supposed to have been the chief cause of the hostilities which have so long prevailed in that island. Together with him was made prisoner his prime minister, Kappitipola: the war in Ceylon is, therefore, considered at an end, as the unhappy nations, deprived of their principal leaders, will be incapable of acting in concert.

A London paper gives it as a rumour prevalent among gentlemen of the bar, that lord Eldon has at length determined to resign the seals, and states that he is to be succeeded by lord Manners, the present lord Chancellor of Ireland—that Sir J. Leach will be presented with the Irish seals, accompanied with a barony. The Marquis of Bath is to succeed earl Paulet as lord lieutenant of the county of Somerset; the earl of Aylesbury is to be the

new knight of the Thistle; and the earl of Life is to be lord of his Majesty's bed-chamber, vice Paulet.

Capacity of Great Britain to create wealth.

"When it is remembered that labour is the great source and cause of wealth; and that to labour as to an universal standard every commodity must be referred in relation to its natural value, it will not be matter of surprise, when wealth has augmented enormously within the last 25 years. The application of science to the arts; the introduction of Watt's improved steam engine, and of Arkwright's spinning machinery, with the endless variety of mechanical inventions and combinations, to which they have given rise, and which have been applied to almost all the useful purposes and ornamental arts of life, have created a change in the productive powers of Great Britain of the most extraordinary amount. Indeed it has been alleged, that since the year 1792, in consequence of the application of the scientific power in improved mechanism, there has been a real addition to her power of creating wealth, of more than twelve times that which she possessed prior to that period.—That is to say, that considering in 1792 her capacity to create wealth, both manual and mechanical, to be equal to the annual labor of seventeen millions of individuals, her present power of creating wealth is equal to the annual labor of two hundred millions of strong active, well trained laborers;" or more than ten times the present population of the British isles! By means of the great capital and industry of that nation aided by this new productive power, Great Britain not only supplies her own internal demand, but overstocks every market in the world into which her commerce is admitted."—N. Y. Adv.

Two expeditions are fitting in France, one for China, and one for Africa. This is not the only evidence we have of the attention paid in France to the advancement of every thing which can make a nation rich, renowned and happy.

While the emperor Alexander lives, the peace of Europe will not probably be disturbed with impunity. His love of peace, and the things of the Prince of peace, appear to constitute his soul. At a late meeting of a Bible society, England, a Mr. Clarkson mentioned a conversation he had with the Emperor lately, at Aix la Chapelle; in which, among other things, he said "that when he had heard of a society established in the U. States of America, for the prevention of war, it so coincided with his own views, and was for so good a moral purpose, that he had thought it right to signify his opinion of it to its president with his own hand." Speaking of educating the poor, he said, "teach the rising generation to read, and give them the Holy Scriptures, the only foundation of true morals, and you lay the axe at the foot of every vicious custom. War itself, among others, must give away, wherever Christianity maintains a solid seat in the hearts of men."

SUMATRA.—It would appear by the news brought to Liverpool from Java, that Sir T. S. Raffles, had been anxiously engaged in his endeavours to extend the British influence over the whole of this beautiful Island—which has hitherto been but very little known.—Europeans had never penetrated into the interior; attempts to do so were considered desperate. The population were considered savages, and the mountains impassable; and yet the natives would still bring down to the coast, gold, cassia, camphor, &c. for which Sumatra has long been famous. Sir T. Raffles felt: there was but one alternative—and that was to open the road by going himself. His enterprise was crowned with success, and the result has been the discovery of a mine of wealth—a country highly cultivated, and abounding in precious metals—within the space of 20 miles around Menangeabon, he was gratified with finding a population of not less than a million. Menangeabon was the place whence all the gold that gave Melano the name of the golden Chersonesus was carried. It is supposed that greater riches will be derived from Sumatra, than ever were from Java.

These discoveries have not, however been made without great personal risk and fatigue. The country could only be explored on foot—mountains 6000 feet high to be crossed, and rocks, precipices and forests, to be traversed. For many nights the party had no shelter, but the leaves they could collect after their days journey; and their journeys were seldom less than from 20 to 30 miles a day, over the very worst roads that ever were past. In this expedition the governor was accompanied by lady Raffles: she was occasionally carried on a man's back, but generally walking, as the roads were too bad to admit of her being carried in a chair.—Doctor Arnold, Physician and naturalist, fell a sacrifice to the fatigue and died of a violent fever.

As this was the first appearance of the European authority in the interior, lady Raffles was the most peaceable standard the party could hoist. It was impossible for the natives to consider their object warlike, when their governor proceeded unarmed, and confided his wife to their hospitality. They found the country beautiful & magnificent. Sir Thomas Stanford Raffles has thrown the trade open, and reformed all the establishments. Treaties have been entered into with the Princes of Menangeabon.

Brighton, (Eng.) Dec. 31.

The ball at the castle last night, under the immediate patronage of the Regent, for the benefit of our local Dispensary, &c. was indeed most splendidly and numerously attended. Nearly four hundred persons of high respectability were there. The tickets of admission were 7s. each; but very few persons, however, confined their generosity to that specific sum. The Regent, with his usual benevolence, when a work of charity is to be promoted, and the condition of the suffering poor amended, sent fifty pounds as a donation. Sir B. Bloomfield, instead of seven shillings, paid five guineas for his ticket; Sir M. Tierney a similar sum for his; ten guineas conjointly were paid by the officers of the 9th Lancers for their tickets, and other acts of munificence of a like complexion, emanated from many of the company.

It was generally reported, and believed in N. York on the 3d inst. that our gracious, and venerable Sovereign WAS NO MORE. But as we have no regular intelligence on the

subject, we forbear making any further comment on the melancholy news.—

In Sanda—one of the Orkney Isles, the sand has lately been blown away to the depth of nearly twenty feet, and has discovered the remains of buildings of a remote antiquity, enclosed by stone walls nearly half a mile in extent; some of the houses are very large, and roofed with stones of prodigious size.—There are circular tombs, each containing three graves; none of which are more than four feet six inches in length, and there is no tradition afloat that can throw light on these very curious remains, which have undergone hitherto but a very slight investigation.

Mr. Eleazer Williams, who is of Indian extraction, and who has for some time successfully labored in the religious institution of the Oneidas, has lately been in Boston, with a young Indian chief, who is desirous of receiving an education for the purpose of acting as a religious instructor among his countrymen. He is the son of a head warrior of the Onondagas, who was in the American service during the late war, and was killed at the battle of Chippewa. According to the usages of the Indians, he succeeds to the station of his father; and thus as one of the chiefs of the nation, will possess considerable authority. He was instructed in the truths of Christianity in early life by Abraham Brandt, a Christian of the Mohawk nation, and more recently Mr. Eleazer Williams has superintended his instruction. It is his earnest desire to receive an education which may qualify him for exercising the ministry among his countrymen: for which office he is fitted by his talents, and his pious and amiable disposition.

(Mr. Williams is a native of Cognawaga, where, if we mistake not, he has some relations.—He was educated at Dartmouth College, and is well known in this place)

VACCINATION.

On the 29th inst. a report was received from the Kine Pock Institution attached to the N. York dispensary. The corporation allows this institution \$600 per ann. to vaccinate the poor, and it is gratifying to learn that a vast number have received the benefit of the appropriation.—The attending physicians are obliged to attend the poor at their houses as well as at the dispensary.—N. Y. Spectator.

Messenger to Spain.

It is stated in the Washington Gazette, of Monday, that the president has directed a messenger to be forthwith despatched to Madrid, and that Mr. J. H. Purviance, of the department of state, has been appointed bearer of despatches on this occasion.

Suppression of the slave trade.

Extract of a letter from a member of the Colonization Society in George town, to a friend in the city of Annapolis, Maryland. "A committee from our board, composed of Judge Washington, general Mason, and some other gentlemen, have waited on the President and heads of department, upon the subject of the execution of this late noble law for the suppression of the slave trade, and its obvious connexion with the views of the society. Every encouragement that we could expect has been given; we are more sanguine than ever; and those who hitherto doubted its success, say it is now settled and certain.

"A ship will soon go to Africa, perhaps very soon, when there will probably be wanted from fifty to sixty free men of color, of good character and industrious habits, to go on wages for a year; with liberty and means then to return if they chuse."

COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE UPPER CANADA HERALD. THE PROMPTER.—No. VII.

Our relative duties are numerous. Indeed most of our practical duties are of that class. Every person is related not only to other persons individually, but also to various societies, natural, civil, religious, professional and voluntary; and is bound by obligations of duty, resulting from each of his social relations.

He is a member of that natural society, called a family; first, that of his parents, and afterwards, perhaps, his own. Under this head, also, may be comprehended the whole of his kindred, both of consanguinity and affinity, to whom, more than to the rest of the world, his feelings recognize a relation.

At the same time, he is a member of civil societies, spreading, like concentric circles, from a smaller to a larger extent; his parish, town, or city, his county or district, his province or state, and his nation.

Whether personally religious, or not, he is more or less connected with some society, church, congregation, sect, or denomination of religion.

His trade, profession, situation, or employment in life, constitutes another society, of which he is a member.

In addition to all these, almost every person has some voluntary associations with others, for special purposes of business, profit, amusement, literary or moral improvement.

From each of these various relations, appropriate obligations result, which, together with those immediately due to our Creator, are proper subjects of inculcation from the pulpit and the press. At present we shall confine our observations to one principle, applicable to all the societies, to which we respectively stand related. It is the duty, and should be the ambition, of every person, in proportion to his abilities, and by all honest means, to benefit and improve the society, of which he is a member.

The reader, it is presumed, readily assents to this principle, in theory, as soon as he reads the statement of it. Then, sir, if you please, let me prompt you to the practice of it.

Have you a family, whose welfare you believe it is your duty to promote? Pray, shew your faith by your works. The doctrine of scripture is, "If any provide not

for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." The dictate of reason is the same. Now, before you apply this rule to your neighbour, be just enough to try your own conduct by it. If that bears the test, you may then, with a better grace, consider its application to others.

You are, or ought to be, engaged in some profession, trade, art, business, or employment. Let that community, with which you are thus connected, be advanced, rather than prejudiced in its credit and interests, by your connection with it.

You are a member of some civil society, a subject of some government.

Whether the township, district, or province, in which you reside, is the place of your nativity, or another which you have adopted and chosen for your residence, you are by birth or choice, or both, an actual member of these civil and political societies; and, as such, are bound in duty and should be stimulated by an honorable emulation, to contribute, by your personal exertions, to their improvement.—All have not the same means of doing this. We cannot all be magistrates, or legislators; reformers of abuses, or founders of institutions. But in some way or other, more or less effective, every person may, by actions or opinions, by precept or example, benefit the place where he lives; so that, when he leaves it either by removal or death, he may leave behind him a just reputation of not having injured, but on the contrary improved it, during his residence there. Reader, whoever you are, and wherever you dwell, or were born, let this be an object of your ambition, a point of honour, as well as a principle of duty.

Resigning the moral and religious consideration of the principle to the preacher, to whose department it more immediately appertains, the Prompter takes the liberty to recommend it, as a civil and social virtue. The human mind is habitually influenced by an association of ideas. We should, therefore, consider ourselves, in some degree identified with the government under which we live, and every subordinate society to which we belong. Our attachment to them, will then be an extended application of that love of self, which, without such liberalizing extension, is so sordid and unjust. In this enlarged view of the subject, the patriot will agree with the poet, that "self-love and social are the same."

FOR THE UPPER CANADA HERALD.

In a political address, delivered at a public meeting in this Province, and since published in the form of a pamphlet, it is suggested, that the great WESTERN CANAL, which we hear so much about, in the state of New-York, although undertaken as an internal improvement, for the benefit of commerce and intercourse between different parts of that state, is really a hostile, military work, designed for the transportation of heavy ordnance to attack this Province. This is an important discovery, for which the author is entitled to more credit than he has received. It is strange that our government do not take the alarm, and adopt some spirited measures to defeat that Yankee plot, and fill up the Canal, from which we are every day in such danger of invasion. Alas! the incredulity of the times! To me this new system of military Canals appears more formidable than even the ancient one of Wind-Mills. I do not call myself a coward; yet I confess, I can hardly sleep a nights, for fear that those Canal Commissioners, clearing out from Albany, with De Witt Clinton at their head, will land at Smith's Creek, or some other creek, and take possession of Upper Canada, before we are awake. To meet such a crisis, surely the militia ought to be trained to some proper anti-canal discipline.

QUIXOTE.

P. S. I shrewdly suspect, it will turn out, that ROBERT GOURLAY, was the prime mover of the Canal, as one of his revolutionizing measures; and that Gov. Clinton is secretly his agent. Internal improvements are a favourite part of his statisti-al system. That is notorious. The Canal operations began about the time of his coming to this country; another remarkable coincidence; and he went, last September, to New York, doubtless for the purpose of maturing the project, in concert with the government of that state. What strengthens the conjecture is that there are said to be several Scotch emigrants, and a number of United Irishmen already at work upon the canal, having renounced their native allegiance, and actually taken up the spade in the service of our ambitious rival. Besides, it has been stated, in a public News-paper, that every mother's son of that guessing, canal-making, land-buying, woods-clearing race, the Yankeys, are absolutely hostile to our nation and government. If all this evidence is not sufficient to convince the reader, of the dangerous tendency of the Mammoth Canal, he must be an infidel in politics, to whom it is of no use to quote political scripture, from the most authentic News-paper, even from a pamphlet published at the seat of government.

FOR THE UPPER CANADA HERALD.

Upon reading a late communication, published among many other weekly publications against Mr. Gourlay, where nothing appears on his side of the question, charging him with being supported by the American government, and associated with United Irishmen in the state of New-York to invade this province, while he is confined in Niagara prison, I could not help thinking of the story of a Lion, who was taken sick, and confined to a cave. The animals of the forest came round him in his