

Political.

To the Editor of the National Journal.

Mr. Editor: Mr. Randolph having defamed my private character in the Senate of the United States, I came to this place in the hope of prevailing on him, by a candid appeal to his judgment and magnanimity, to retract his accusations. With this view I addressed him the letter below, instructing the friend who bore it, to assure him it was inoffensive in language, and explanatory and pacific in its object. This precaution was used from a well founded apprehension that Mr. Randolph might object to receiving it. The gentleman who carried it made two ineffectual attempts to see Mr. Randolph: when believing that no interview would be allowed him, he enclosed it, accompanied by a note of his own, in which the above assurance, as to the character of the letter, was made. Notwithstanding, Mr. Randolph refused to receive it, or at least to read it, and returned it by the hands of a member from Virginia. Defeated in the reasonable hope, that Mr. Randolph would condescend to hear the defence of a citizen and constituent, whom he had unjustly assailed, and repair the injury he had inflicted, I ask of you the favor to make that defence known to the public. Elevated as he supposes, too high in rank and character to acknowledge me in any shape, as an equal, to challenge Mr. Randolph would only be to make myself ridiculous. Protected by his age, station, and infirmities, from personal violence, were I to seek redress in that way, I should be called a bully of the Administration, offend national decorum, and be laid by the heels by the Senate for a breach of privilege. All this Mr. Randolph knows; and secure in his Senatorial immunities, he rests on the slaughtered reputations of his fellow citizens. None are virtuous enough to escape his unsparring malignity, or obscure enough to elude the blast of his withering misanthropy. Friendship is forgotten in the fumes of political intoxication, and female modesty itself flies, covered with blushes, from the Senate of the United States. In the same breath he scatters the ashes of the dead, and murders the fame of the living—and writes, in the same denunciation, a Jefferson and an Editor.

JOHN H. PLEASANTS.

TO JOHN RANDOLPH, Esq.
WASHINGTON, Friday, 5th May, 1826.

SIR: Having been absent from Richmond several days, I heard with much surprise on my return there, that you had deemed me worthy of a special castigation in your speech of Wednesday snuffing, on Mr. Branch's resolutions. On my arrival at this place this morning, I applied to Messrs. Gales and Seaton for a copy of your remarks, as far as I am concerned: but as they could not possibly be suddenly furnished, and learning that you were on the eve of leaving this place for England, all I can do at present is to state the charges as they have been verbally reported to me, accompanied by such explanations as I am sure will satisfy you that you have done me injustice.

I understand that you pronounced me—1st. A duellist: 2d. That I was the profligate son of a worthy father: 3d. That my press had been bought up by the Administration: 4th. That I had been disgraced by my transactions with the banks in Lynchburg, in consequence of which I had left that town for Richmond. These are the distinct charges as far as your remarks have been reported to me.

1. I abhor, sir, the character of a professed duellist as much as you can. No conduct of my life, no opinion that I have ever uttered or entertained, can justify the application of the epithet to me. On one occasion only, I was forced by circumstances to embrace that alternative or submit to disgrace. On that occasion, the mode in which the affair terminated, by the acknowledgment of the high-minded young man who was my antagonist, that he had done me injustice, is the best evidence that I had not voluntarily sought the contest. Your friend Benjamin Watkins Leigh, of Richmond, is acquainted with the circumstance, and I appeal with confidence to his statement, should you deem me unworthy of credit. That there are situations that justify such a resort, your own conduct on two occasions of your life, for as you are to the practice, sufficiently demonstrates.

Your second charge I presume is embraced in the other three, and I will therefore proceed to the third.

3. That my paper had been purchased up by the Administration. This charge, I presume, is based upon the fact, in part, that I was deputed in 1825, to carry despatches for the Government to Buenos Ayres. While I admit that that circumstance gives a plausibility to the charge, I do not doubt my ability to satisfy you of its incorrectness. When I asked that appointment from the Secretary of State I told him that I desired neither emolument nor honor by it, nor was it possible by it to acquire either the one or the other. I told him farther, that a deranged state of feelings made me desire a temporary absence from Virginia, and that my finances being unequal to the charge, that I should be happy to act as a messenger to the Government if any was shortly to be employed. I averred that I sought no office, and that I would exchange my business at home for no office

which the Government could give me, and to which I might aspire. I have never asked any office. I never mean to ask any. I do not publish the laws "By Authority," or without authority. I would not apply for that appointment when the circulation of my paper entitled me to it, because I would not incur the imputations which are lavishly dealt upon those who have the misfortune to publish them. I do not advertise exclusively for the public departments in Washington, nor to any thing like the extent that the Enquirer does. Three or four members only of the Government subscribe to my paper; nor am I patronized in any irregular way. I support such measures of the Government, and such only, as I approve. I presume that this exercise of my natural and constitutional right of freedom of opinion and speech, ought not to subject me to so serious and disgraceful a charge.

4. That I had left Lynchburg in disgrace from my transactions with the banks. Now, sir, it so happens, that I never had a transaction with either of the banks in Lynchburg. I never borrowed from either of them. I never was an applicant directly or indirectly for their favors. This fact can be established by the evidence of every bank officer in the town. In another shape I had transactions with those institutions, if I may call them by that term. I joined a party, who believing the banks in that place mismanaged to the oppression of certain individuals, made annual efforts to effect a reform. As this was the weak party, I had sacrificed to incur in forming it, but nothing in any event to gain, individually. That the citizens of Lynchburg did not consider me disgraced, is manifest from the fact of their giving me, the last year that I resided there, a unanimous vote, with four exceptions, for a seat in the General Assembly.

It has occurred to me as possible, from your habits of intimacy, that you may have derived your impressions concerning me, from Thomas Miller, esq. of Powhatan. I say not this in the way of "a leading question," but to refer you, if such be the fact, to an extract of a letter from that gentleman to the editors of the Enquirer. Having called upon those editors for the author of a piece signed Patrick Henry, in which I conceived charges to have been insinuated against my private integrity, Mr. Miller declared himself the author, and disclaimed the construction which I had put, in the following language:—"That from all he had heard of me, such a charge was out of the question, and he entirely disclaimed it." I mention this, that if you should have derived your unfavorable impressions from that gentleman, to satisfy you that he is convinced that they were erroneous.

Thus, sir, have I met, and I hope refuted, to your satisfaction, the disgraceful charges you made against me in the Senate of the United States. If this effect is produced on your mind, I then throw myself upon your magnanimity to acknowledge it, and to render me justice. Our relative situations give me an additional claim to this redress. Representing the sovereignty of Virginia, known to the whole Union, placed by your age and character so high in public opinion over me, I cannot hope to parry the effects of your denunciation, but by your own acknowledgment, that you have spoken under erroneous convictions. I, sir, was too obscure an individual to have deserved your Senatorial reprehension; but I hope I am not too obscure to be unworthy of that justice which every citizen has a right to expect from every other citizen. I have heard that you have adopted the rule never to give explanations. But your sense of moral obligation ought not to permit this rule to make you guilty of individual injustice. To that sense of eternal obligation I appeal—convinced at the same time, that you cannot wish to destroy the fame of an innocent man. Relying upon your candor, and confiding in the sufficiency of this explanation to remove your injurious impressions respecting me, I respectfully ask, that you will make an acknowledgment to that effect, to be published in the National Journal.

JOHN H. PLEASANTS.

At the close of Mr. McFEE's speech in support of his motion to strike out the enacting clause of the bill to make appropriation for the Panama Mission on the 21st April, it is said in a letter from Washington, that he "with a good deal of bitterness of manner, counselled such members of Congress as might be friendly to the administration, not to indulge in the practice of writing home abusive letters; a species of attack, said he, far more to be dreaded, than that which calls a person to the field of honor—which has no terrors, he observed, for any one that deserves the name of a man—an attack which there were no means of repelling." Mr. WEBSTER rose and made a short but very able reply, which he commenced by saying, that if he was referred to as a friend of the administration, he would accept the gentleman's advice, with one modification, to strike out the words "friendly to the administration," so that the advice should run, in general terms, to all members of Congress, to abstain from abusive letters and anonymous attacks, of which he believed he had as much occasion to complain as any one. Mr. McFEE good humoredly said, from his place, that he accepted the modification.

Boston Sentinel.

Randolph appears to have a great antipathy to John. This may be from what he knew of John of Roanoke.

General Intelligence.

From the National Journal.

The African Colony.—The Board of Managers of the American Colonization Society, have the satisfaction to state, that despatches have been received from the colony at Liberia, bearing date 23d January, 1826. The communications from Mr. Assmun, the indefatigable and intelligent agent there, are copious in detailing the condition of the Colony, in all the relations which it sustains. It appears that there is a degree of prosperity in the present, and security as to the future state of that establishment, which, with all their expectations, the friends of African Colonization, could scarcely have been led to hope. Through the accredited medium, the African Repository, the communications will be published at large; but, in the mean time, the following brief statement is submitted.

In all the internal concerns, and foreign relations of the Colony, there is every evidence of growing prosperity, strength, and security. The health of the Colonists, that first and great consideration, is as good as that of any community. Since June, 1825, to the date of the despatches, there have occurred five deaths, three adults and two children. The scorbutic ulcers which excited some apprehensions, have almost entirely disappeared, occasioning but one death. They occur as other diseases in the progress of acclimation during the first year, and exempt the subject of them from other and more fatal sickness. Those who are affected with pulmonary weakness and rheumatism, are entirely freed from these infirmities. After acclimation, the coloured emigrants acquire a perfect vigor of constitution, accommodation to the African climate, and ability to support every hardship which ordinary life or contingencies may impose. Many of the whites have fallen victims; to this number is added Mr. Sessions, who died on his return to America. While the black population, even under the privations and sufferings peculiarly incidental to the sickness on arrival, are found to bear the change with the safety—whatever the danger may have been, the increasing comforts which emigrants meet on their arrival, will tend to reduce it to one of a little moment.

The Colonists are under the influence of a mild, but energetic Government—one which is a terror to evil doers, and a protection to the good. As the settlement has increased in population, commerce and wealth, the moral character has advanced; the intelligence and virtue of the People evincing the capacity for self-government. The arrangements now making for the settlement of families on farms, promise that agriculture shall keep pace with commerce; and these two great sources of support and wealth, are now in such happy operation at Monrovia, as to assure the adequacy of the Colony to its own maintenance, in its present condition. The trade in rice, coffee, camwood, and ivory, is already considerable, and so regulated as to inspire the confidence of the natives in the liberal and fair dealings of the Colonists.

During the past year, two churches have been built. Five schools are in active operation, besides Sabbath schools: the children, emigrant and native, the latter sixty in number, are well instructed. The adults are busily engaged in finishing and improving their dwellings and property. Mechanics receive \$2 per day, laborers from 75 cents to \$1 25, with constant employment. The whole prospect is animating to the resident, and imposing to the numerous foreigners who resort to Monrovia. A vessel of ten tons, called the St. Paul, admirably fitted for the coasting trade, and for procuring supplies, has been built by one of the colonists, according to the plan, and under the direction of the agent. Several other boats belong to the establishment. Fort Stockton has been rebuilt, so as to be one of the most conspicuous objects on the Cape, and with some other fortifications, renders the town perfectly secure against any foe. Two well disciplined companies, one of infantry, the other of artillery, present an active force, ready for any service, at a moment's warning. The emigrants from Boston have been received as "brothers and sisters." To the American public, to the State and National Legislatures, to the free people of color, who may desire to emigrate, the Board of Managers declare, that a peaceful, healthful, prosperous community has been founded at Monrovia, and was, in January, the date of the last advices, in most flourishing circumstances; and they do therefore, with renewed confidence, declare their object worthy of the continued patronage of a generous, Christian People, and of its wise and patriotic Legislatures.

In consequence of a piratical act, committed on a British merchant vessel, in Liberia Bay, and within our jurisdiction, by a Spanish slave trader, it became necessary for the agent at Monrovia to interfere, and destroy three slave factories within 10 miles of the town. In doing this, 116 miserable victims were rescued from slavery, and are now comfortably clothed, fed, and in progress of education, at Monrovia. The circumstances have been minutely detailed to the government, and the report to the board, assures them of the judicious, firm, and

proper course of the agent. The neighboring tribes have congratulated the colonists on their energetic measures, and in the language of the agent, "between Cape Mount and Trade Town, comprehending a line of 140 miles, not a slaver now dares to attempt his guilty traffic."

A settlement thus formed on the African Coast, on a most salubrious spot, with a fine fertile territory, enjoying the respect and confidence of the natives, with a Government in systematic operation; with a military force competent to its perfect protection; with Christian and civil institutions of the purest character; affixing the seal of performance to the promises, and of reality to the hopes of the friends of Colonization; speaks to the people of this enlightened country, with an emphasis, which, it is hoped, will not be lost on the patriot and statesman. May Heaven direct the attention of the wise and good amongst us to the Colony of Liberia, as the means of averting calamity from our land, of securing the happiness of a large portion of our fellow creatures, of freeing our political institutions from their only blemish, and thus constituting our nation the fairest, as it is the freest on the globe.

The Board of Managers have, under the blessings of Providence, accomplished an important object. It is where they end, that the National and State Legislatures must commence, if the work is to be carried on to its desired completion. The appeal is sounded from America and Africa; and national policy, it will be heard and answered by a nation's approbation and energies.

TWO GREAT NATIONS.

Sir A. Campbell, General of the British forces in India, after having concluded an armistice with the Burmese, gave a splendid entertainment to the Indian commissioners, twelve in number, who were punctual in their attendance, and did ample justice to the dinner, in the course of which a bumper was drunk to the health of the King and Royal Family of Ava. The Burmese Commissioners appeared to be much delighted with the attentions they experienced, observing that the meeting of the Chiefs of the two contending armies at a public entertainment, in the midst of war, was an extraordinary proof of mutual good faith and confidence, and worthy of two such great and civilized nations, who, they hoped, would never encounter each other again in arms. And Atawoon added, that the sun and moon were under an eclipse, but that, when peace was restored, they would shine in the astonished world with increased brilliancy and splendour!

Balt Gaz.

Impressment.—It is positively stated that Capt. Clevering, of H. B. Majesty's ship Redwing, impressed two of the crew of the brig Pharos, of Boston, while she lay in the harbor of Sierre Leone. Captain Merchant, who commanded the brig, when he applied for his men, is said to have been treated with great indignity. A few days after Com. Bullen, having arrived, ordered the release of one of the men, because he had an American "protection," but detained the other as an Englishman, for the want of one!

This is the first case of impressment, we believe, that has occurred since the late war, and we shall be much surprised, indeed, if it is not met with a resolution, that it shall be the last. The British pretended "right of search" is sustained by Com. Bullen, as well in the release of one of the men, because that he had "a protection," as in detaining the other because he had none. We did hope that the practice of granting protections had long since ceased. It partially admits the right of examining the crews of our vessels, which the national feeling will not, at this day, admit of, and which must not be allowed: and the retaining of the seaman, because he was without a paper protection, shews that the British officers yet feel themselves authorized to act as judges, jurors and executioners of our people. This will not be permitted.—If the case is made out to the President as it is stated in the papers, we feel perfectly confident, that a positive understanding will be demanded on this interesting subject at once; and though Great-Britain may hold out for the principle, she will be required at least, to abstain from the practice.

A letter from Monte Video, dated February 1st, represents the force of the Patriots in the Banda Oriental to be 7000 men, and that of the Buenos Ayreans, 2000, making in all an army of ten thousand. The writer appears to entertain little doubt of the final success of the revolutionists.

Extract of a letter from Rio Janeiro, March 22.—"We have certain intelligence, that General Sucre has entered Paraguay with a considerable force, and it is said that the tyrant Francia has been taken prisoner. The inhabitants, it appears were overjoyed at the coming of General Sucre, and greeted him, to a man, as their friend and deliverer."

The Governor of Cuba published a proclamation on the 13th April, prohibiting the importation of all books which oppose the Catholic religion, the royalty, rights and prerogative of the sovereignty,

or which in any other manner defend the rebellion of vassals or nations. The masters and owners of vessels, as well as the proprietors of such property, and of immoral books, &c. are rendered responsible, and will be required to pay the value, if it does not exceed 200 dollars.

LOUISVILLE CANAL.

The Bill authorizing a purchase of one thousand shares of stock on the part of the United States, in the Louisville and Portland Canal, at the Falls of Ohio in Kentucky, has become a law. From what passed in both Houses of Congress in the discussion of this bill, added to the information since obtained from persons well acquainted with the commerce of the Ohio River, we are confirmed in the belief, that no work of similar character, and equal magnitude, in the United States, can be found, or undertaken, that is calculated to render advantages so general and extensive. It appeared, the loss annually sustained by the commerce of the Ohio river, occasioned by the obstruction to its navigation, presented by the Falls, was variously calculated to be from five hundred thousand to nine hundred thousand dollars. The single item of drayage round the Falls was estimated to amount to one hundred thousand dollars. The work was commenced in March, and is now prosecuting with adequate force—contracted to be completed in November, 1827, for three hundred and seventy-seven thousand dollars. It is supposed, including cost of land and contingencies, the whole work, including dry-docks, will be completed for four hundred and twenty thousand dollars. The stocks consists of six thousand shares of one hundred dollars each. It is believed the assessments will not exceed seventy dollars a share. The canal is contemplated to pass the largest class of steam boats, being one hundred and ninety feet wide. The fall of water is twenty-seven feet, affording an extensive and valuable water power, secured to the company by charter, which is perpetual, guaranteeing twelve and a half per cent. dividend, annually, amounting to eighteen per cent. which those best acquainted with the commerce of the West, entertain no doubt will be divided. The stock having all been subscribed, it appears the object of the company in procuring the passage of this bill, was a precautionary measure to prevent embarrassment, should any delinquency take place, which from the embarrassment of trade, and the scarcity of capital, occasioned by the many recent failures, might in some degree, be expected. Nat. Journal.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.

Pennsylvania Canal.—The Secretary of the State of Pennsylvania has advertised to receive proposals for a loan of \$300,000, in conformity to the act passed at the last session of the legislature of that state, authorising a loan for the commencement of the construction of the Pennsylvania Canal.

Blackstone Canal.—The Worcester, Ms. Spy, of the 3d inst. says "the line of the canal was located and marked out through this village last week. From the Blackstone factory in Mendon to Providence, it is all located and under contract, and about five hundred hands are actively engaged in its construction.—They have already commenced putting in the locks. It is the intention of the commissioners to commence the location from Mendon to this place next week, and put it under contract as fast as it can be accomplished."

Ohio Canal.—With a few interruptions the contractors on the Ohio Canal have prosecuted their labors during the late winter, and the whole line now under contract presents a scene of industry and enterprise which promise the most favorable results. It is expected that a part of the Ohio Canal will be in readiness for the navigation of boats the ensuing autumn.

Saxony Sheep.—The sheep mania which once infested the country, has at length become productive of great good. The merino is now crossed with native, and other breeds are introduced, which will give us the right quality of wool for every article we want. The Saxony breed make an excellent cross with the merino or the native, and their distribution through the country has given our old farmers more satisfaction than the introduction of any other breed. This is an immense country for wool. At the present time there is shorn every year in New-England more than six million pounds of wool, most of which is of good quality—and without trenching upon the number of neat cattle, this amount may be quadrupled in ten years. Much credit is due to the enterprise of a few individuals in importing the various breeds; and it is to be hoped that they will be paid for their patriotic exertions. Boston Gazette.

Punning.—An Eastern editor declared that ladies always pulled off the left stocking last. This declaration offended some of them, and they pronounced the busy, prying editor, to be no gentleman, and, moreover, asserting what was not true. The editor, not daunted, defends himself thus: "When one stocking is pulled off last, there is another left on, and pulling off this is taking the left stocking off last. Noah's Ark."