

of the lower classes in the former. In the course of several tours to the extent of twenty six hundred miles in Great Britain, we never had the misfortune to be driven by a drunken postboy more than once; while in an equal distance in France, our lives were not less than six different times exposed to imminent danger from that cause. Neither do I believe, that the French nation at large deserve the eulogy which is usually made upon their temperance. I would ask these admirers of French virtue, why in every petty village, and in every street, we see the dram shop so temptingly displayed? And whence it arises, that the advertisements of "bonne can de vie" strike your eye more frequently than those even of the necessaries of life? Either the revolution has made a very great change in this particular, or which I must suspect, travellers have formed their opinion from the habits of the higher classes of society. It is undoubtedly true, that in polite life, it is not the fashion for the French gentlemen to prolong their convivial meetings after the more solid parts of the feast are consumed; but I cannot agree to attribute this to their temperance. This virtue appears to me to consist in a due restraint of all our appetites, and I can never apply it exclusively to those who indulge immoderately in the gratification of the grossest of them. The French are, without controversy, the greatest gourmands in the world. Their vanity, and their love of power do not exceed their love of eating. I do not well know how I can give you a stronger or a truer picture of it.

To return to the postillions. With the expectations of occasionally getting drunk, and of being most sturdy beggars where they think any thing is to be obtained, they are very good drivers. They drive with great dexterity, & as you would conclude from the impudence and vivacity of their nation, with great speed. You may pretty fairly reckon upon riding six miles an hour, including the time necessary to change horses, and you can generally ride ninety miles in a day in the summer season, without encroaching upon the night.

The postmasters, who are scattered all over the country, and in almost every village, are generally the most considerable men of the place. They are required by law to be always at their posts; and, as their sole employment consists in superintending the conduct of their postillions & the management of their horses, they are a pretty indolent set of men. Generally speaking, they are civil and indeed polite; but there are two many of them who watch every opportunity to take in the ignorant or unwary traveller, either by compelling him to take more horses than the law obliges him to take, or by representing the distance for which he is entitled to receive pay, as much greater than it really is. They are allowed thirty sous per poste, or about six cents a mile out, without computing the return of the horses. The horses they furnish you, are generally stallions of the Norman breed; short, strong and ugly; exceedingly like the breed of horses in Canada. The harness of a French postmaster is certainly not so expensive as to endanger his ruin. It consists of tackling much simpler and more ordinary than that of our common horse carts. The leather part of the harness is of the natural colour of the leather after it has been tanned without blacking, and the traces are universally of rope. So abominable are these harnesses, that you scarcely can ride a single post in France, without being obliged to stop repeatedly in order to repair the harness & this sometimes occurs as often as 4 or 5 times in as many miles.

The inns in France are certainly not so bad as they have been sometimes represented. If they have generally their *disagremens*, they have assuredly, in all cases, their comforts. To compare them with the inns of G. Britain, would be to place them in a disadvantageous light; but, after partaking of the fare allotted you in Germany, Holland, Italy, or especially in the United States, you would think yourself very nobly and agreeably lodged in the greater part of the inns of France.

The inkeepers and their servants are, almost without exceptions, polite and attentive. As soon as you are driven under an arch through the building into a court yard, or what is still more common, into the *stable*, you find yourself surrounded by the host, hostess, and every other male and female of the family, who with eager and curious eyes, and pleasant faces, welcome your arrival at the "*Boule d'or*," or at the "*Couronne Imperiale*."

You are immediately ushered through a dirty entry and staircase, paved with stone, very seldom brushed, and never washed, into your apartments, which are also paved either with bricks or stones, and which are the general receptacle of all the slops and crumbs which are made in them. If it be the winter season, a fire of faggots is very soon kindled, and you are invited to select out of a long and generally an excellent bill of fare, the articles you may wish for supper. However the French may improperly and vainly contend for precedence in every thing, certainly superiority in the art of cookery is their fair and just praise. This art is not confined to their hotels of high reputation; but, in every village, and almost in every cabaret, or tipping house you find cooks, who would satisfy the palate of the most fastidious epicure. Nor is the goodness of the French inn confined solely to their cookery; the cleanliness and abundance of their table linen and the nicety and goodness of their beds, contribute in a great degree to the comfort of the traveller. If the traveller is a

Frenchman, he may add *chances* to the other good qualities of a French inn; but if a stranger, he must detract a great deal on the score of fraud. So generally is the principle adopted, that every pecuniary advantage is to be taken of strangers, that it is absolutely necessary, if you would avoid imposition, to make a bargain for every article before you enter the house. This difference does not amount to an advance merely of ten or fifteen per cent. but they have the effrontery often to demand 4 or 5 hundred per cent. above their ordinary established prices.

Thus, then, I have made you in some degree acquainted with the quality of our roads, with our mode of travelling, and with the characters of the different persons with whom we must have necessarily some intercourse in our journeys. You will thus be better able to follow us in our tour, and to enter into our feelings and situation. Before I close the present letter, I would add one circumstance which you would wish to know, and which is applicable to every part of France. The roads in France are all owned and repaired by the government; but there are turnpike gates throughout the whole empire, at which you are obliged to pay a toll. This toll is regulated by the number of horses, and amounts to about twelve cents for each horse, for every ten miles. As far as I have been able to remark, the tolls in England and France are about equal to those which have been established in the state of Massachusetts. I thought I ought not to omit to state this piece of information, so important to a traveller, and in my next letter I shall resume our journey towards Bordeaux. Yours, &c.

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FOREIGN.

By the British brig George, arrived lately at New York from the Havana, papers were received from that place to the 8th of March, which contained the following intelligence, originally derived from Cadix papers of the 1st and 2nd February.

Moria, Governor of Cadiz, has proved traitor, and invited the French to Madrid, which place Buonaparte left on the 23d December, to attack Romana's army; since which time nothing official had been received from the armies. The whole of the Spanish forces are drawing to a point, and hopes are entertained that they will surround and take Buonaparte.

The Supreme Junta was at Seville, but it was expected they would remove to Cadiz in a few days.

The President of the Supreme Junta, Count Florida Blanca, died at Seville, on the 30th December, aged 81 years. Count de Almirante is his successor.

At Cadiz they had eighty-four thousand French prisoners.

The British have been roughly handled. One army is marched towards Corunna, from prudential motives; and the other towards the borders of Portugal.

These movements indicate an expectation of the necessity of embarking at those points, to sail round to another more tenable.

The patriotic army in Saragossa, under Palafox, in a bloody and hard fought battle, under the walls of that city, defeated the French army under Moncey. On the 21st December, the day after the unsuccessful attack, Marshal Moncey addressed the following letter to the Captain General and Magistrates of Saragossa.

Sirs.—The city of Saragossa is now completely invested, and all communication with the country cut off. I can now employ against it all the means which are sanctioned by the laws of war. The 5th division of the grand army, under Marshal Montier, & the troops under my own command, are ready to renew the attack. The city of Madrid has capitulated and thus preserved itself from the misfortunes which must have resulted from longer resistance. Should not Saragossa imitate the example of the capital, its total destruction is inevitable.

Marshal Montier and myself indulge the hope that you will prevent the effusion of blood and the destruction of this beautiful city; so respectable for its population, its commerce and its health, by an immediate surrender; and thus entitle yourselves to the veneration and benedictions of its inhabitants.

Be assured, gentlemen, that every thing will be done, compatible with my honour and duty to the emperor, to ensure to you, and to the inhabitants the undisturbed enjoyment of peace and tranquillity.

I propose to you by this flag of truce the appointment of commissioners to meet those whom I may authorize to treat for the accomplishment of this desirable purpose.

The following is the answer which was given to the summons, by General Palafox.

"The general in Chief of the army of reserve answers from Saragossa. This city cannot think of surrendering. Marshal M. may therefore observe the laws of war, and measure his strength with mine. I have open and uninterrupted communication with all parts of Spain and have abundance of every thing. Sixty thousand brave men, whom I am proud of the honor to command, who pant for battle seeking no reward but honor and the deliverance of their country, forbid the listening to your proposal.

M. Moncey will immortalize himself, by a strict observance of the laws of war, he can obtain a victory which no one here will suppose. My glory will not be less in having preserved this city, by the valour of our soldiers, opposed to a system of despicable oppression, unknown to the ancient Marshals of France. Having sustained a siege of 61 days, the commander who fears not death nor privations, will not now, when his army by reinforcements equals in numbers their besiegers, shrink from the glorious task imposed upon him.

The blood of generous Spaniards so plentifully shed in a glorious cause as Spain as it is evidence of the ignominy & cruelty of those who would enslave them.

Marshal M. is assured that for Eleven millions of people to be free it is sufficient to will it. Their enthusiasm and loyalty cannot be subdued, I would not willingly sacrifice the brave men whom I command; but there is not one of them who would not joyfully shed his blood in defence of the last inch of his beloved country.

Yesterday must have convinced your Excellency that I might with equal propriety offer terms to your army, who will all perish under the walls of Saragossa, ere it surrenders.

The commander in chief cannot credit the account of the surrender of Madrid, unless indeed he were informed of the treachery which alone could have proved the destruction of the brave, united and loyal inhabitants of that capital.

The commissary of the junta of Murcia near the armies of the enemy has this day communicated to it the following intelligence, dated, TARANCON, Jan. 6th, 1809.

"This morning information was published, by order of the general, of the complete defeat of the French, between Segovia and the Navas of St. Anthony, by the marquis of Romana, with the loss on the part of the French of 21,000 men, killed, wounded and taken prisoners, with all their baggage and artillery. The remainder of the French army with a great personage (supposed to be Napoleon) was surrounded by our troops in the Paular of Segovia.

Several persons who have left Madrid, bring information of the French gradually leaving that city, without knowing in what direction they proceeded and of a great change in the carriage of a few who remain.

New troops are expected here from Ucles and Cuenca, who, when united, will proceed in quest of the enemy."

Upon the receipt of this intelligence the junta ordered the bells to be rung, and *Te Deum* to be sung in the Churches.

HAVANNAH, March 13.

Don Juan Domecq de Victor, a gentleman well known in this city, and as remarkable for his probability, as the publick situation he holds, has received the following letter from his brother Don Josef Victor, an inhabitant of the city of Xeres de la Frontera, dated,

29th December, 1808.

Dear Domecq. I have received, by General Gregori, at 7 o'clock this morning, an extraordinary dispatch, containing various and important news from Madrid, of which I had not time to send you a copy, as it is very long, and there is barely time to take one for the Captain-General, to whom I am about to forward it. The substance of it may be reduced to this: The French who garrisoned and surrounded Madrid, alarmed by the failure of nine mails from Bayonne, and informed of the junction of the Marquis de Romana, and the Duke de la Infantado with their armies, had resolved to evacuate Madrid, which they did in two divisions, leaving very few of their people behind them, and took the road to Santosierra, on their way to which they must inevitably be cut off, and not one would remain.

The accounts state, that the military and private property which they had plundered, was sufficient to load 1500 waggons. They also assert, that the news from Arragon and Catalonia had filled with consternation both Joseph Buonaparte and his Brother. This is all that my time permits me to communicate.

DOMESTIC.

Levi Blount, of North Carolina, is appointed collector for the district and inspector of the revenue for the port of Plymouth, in North Carolina.

William Orr, of North Carolina, collector for the district and inspector of the revenue for the Port of Washington, in North Carolina.

Peter Freneau, of South Carolina, commissioner of loans for South Carolina.

The New Hampshire Gazette of the 21st gives as the aggregate of votes for Governor in 177 towns (the whole number of towns is about 190) *Langdon 14,125 Smith 15,098.*

Fire—Lately, near New York, the Pennypack Paper Mills, with all their contents, the property of Messrs. J. G. and W. Langstreth were destroyed by fire. The loss sustained, is about \$20,000. Some suspicions are entertained, that the fire was intentionally communicated.

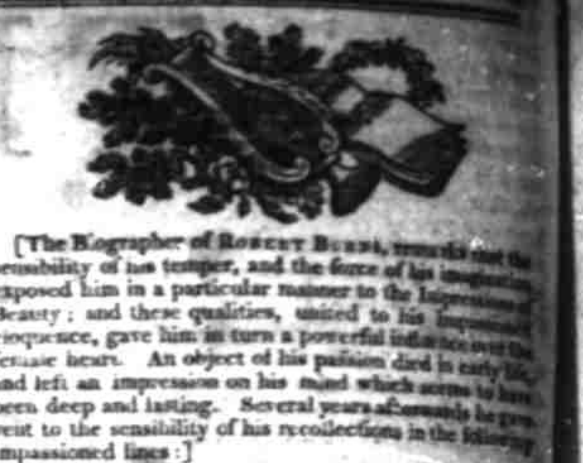
Richmond has suffered greatly by the ravages of a fire that broke out there on the morning of the 27th ult. in a hatter's shop, supposed to have originated from an iron stove-pipe which passed through the house. As the wind was extremely high the flames were rapidly communicated to the houses on the street leading down to the Bell Tavern. More than twenty houses were destroyed, till the progress of the fire was finally arrested by a parapet wall.

The wind being violent, the flaming brands flew to an immense distance. They set fire to several roofs on the other side of the street—to several on the same side, below—they flew even below Shockoe Creek, and set fire to the market house, close to the market bridge, and to several houses below. The brands are supposed to have flown in one direction, nearly six hundred yards.

No computation can yet be formed of the injury and loss sustained. The houses were generally valuable—the suit of brick buildings was, however, insured by the Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia. A considerable quantity of goods was destroyed, particularly in the vendue office and warehouses of Mr. Brown.

The impetuosity of the flames was immense. A vast number of people attended the fire—but there was little order and little discipline. There were four engines on the ground. Some individuals distinguished themselves by their intelligent and powerful exertions. Mr. Osgood displayed all his wonted fire and intrepidity.

This melancholy accident has demonstrated at least three truths to the citizens of Richmond—1st, the necessity of separating their houses by a party or parapet wall several feet high. 2nd, the necessity of covering their roofs with tile or slate, instead of shingles. 3rd, the necessity of better discipline in the fire companies, and a more complete apparatus used on these occasions.



TO MARY IN HEAVEN.

Thou'rt lingering star, with less'ning ray,
That loe'st to greet the early morn,
Again thou shin'st in the day
My Mary from my soul was torn.

O Mary! dear departed shade!
Where is thy place of blissful rest?
See'st thou thy lover lowly laid?
Hea'st thou the groans that rend his breast!

That sacred hour can I forget,
Can I forget the hallow'd grove,
Where by the wailing Ayr we met,
To live one day of parting love!

Eternity will not efface,
Those records dear of transports past;
Thy image at our last embrace!
Ah! in'th' thought we 'twas our last!

Ayr gurgling kiss'd his pebbled shore,
O'erhung with wild woods, thuck'ning grove,
The fragrant birch, and hawthorn bower,
'Twas in am'rous round the raptur'd scene.

The flowers sprang wanton to be prest,
The birds sang love on every spray,
Till too, too soon the glowing west,
Proclaim'd the speed of winged day.

Still o'er these scenes my mem'ry wakes,
And fondly broods with miser care;
Time but the impression deeper makes,
As streams their channels deeper wear.

My Mary! dear departed shade!
Where is thy blissful place of rest?
See'st thou thy lover lowly laid?
Hea'st thou the groans that rend his breast!

CHARACTER OF JOHN RANDOLPH.

Extracted from a communication to the Raleigh Register, dated April 18, 1865.

"With a heart naturally warm and a sensibility the most delicate, and the most easily excited, he hates or loves at once, he hates or loves entirely. His understanding, which nature herself had formed with the most ready perception, has been enlarged by the most extensive reading, methodized by the most liberal education, and invigorated by the severest and most continued application to study. Virtue with him is not mere good nature, but the offspring of good sense, and the parent of a most manly, enlarged and disinterested benevolence. His patriotism is the pure, the natural effusion of a heart overflowing with gratitude to the country of his birth, and of a mind filled with admiration of the blessings which every citizen, the youngest child of poverty in common with the richest India merchant, the poor old man who is toiling in yonder field for his daily support equally with the proudest inhabitant of the metropolis, feels and enjoys. Bravery with Randolph is constitutional. He will not, he cannot endure the slightest insult with patience, and there is not to be found the man who dare cast a blame on his integrity.

"As an orator it may without fear of contradiction be asserted that he is now the first in our national councils. Superior to Otis, and Hayard in the graceful and flowing rotundity of expression, unrivalled in ease and propriety of his gestures, second only to Giles in the peculiar force, precision and strength of his manner, unaffected in his delivery, free from the theatrical cant of Gouverneur Morris, and possessing all the simplicity and earnestness of Marshall and Harper, he cannot be heard without a conviction of the rectitude of his intentions. His method like his heart is clear and lucid. He exposes the strong points of his subject to the light at once; he reasons, convinces, and persuades; and the hearer is insensibly seized with that enthusiasm which it ought always to be the object of the great orator to produce. His eloquence is like the forked lightning, when inveighing against the public defaulter, the corrupt judge, or the pretended patriot. "The guilty hear, and quake and tremble."

The Star. RALEIGH, THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1809.

The Trustees of the Raleigh Academy have prescribed some judicious regulations for the government of the Institution, which secure its permanence and usefulness, by guarding against the probability of dissipation in the students; which allows their acquiring some fashionable accomplishments, if permitted by parents and guardians, without an improper suspension of their more useful studies.

The Academy was never more flourishing than at present. The number of students is large, and they are pressing forward to the Goal of Literature & Science with their wonted emulation.

We understand that Mr. William McLure, whom we mentioned in our 63rd page as the maker of an improved kind of Spinning Machine, has lately been employed as superintendent of a Cotton Manufactory, lately established at Williamsborough.

If associations should be formed in any of the southern states to encourage domestic improvements, we request information of them through any medium that will not subject us to expence. A concise account of the progress of improvements, premiums awarded, &c. will be gratuitously published if communicated early.

Original articles for the Star, at all times acceptable, would be particularly welcome at the present period, as our paper is neither burthened with Intelligence or Congressional debates.

We have seen and seen with regret the liberal-spirit of Criticism which has manifested itself on the appointments of the Cabinet. Ministers by President Madison, and particularly as this has been indulged in by those who contributed their in-