

about but you will have seen many better accounts of it than this long before my letter reaches you.



AGRICULTURE.

The first of Arts, source of Domestic ease, Pride of the Land and patron of the Sea.

MERINO WOOL.

The following is an extract of a letter from Chancellor Livingston to Elkannah Watson of Pittsfield, Mass. on the subject of this important article: Lebanon Springs, 12th Sept. 1809.

DEAR SIR—On the subject of cotton, on which we conversed fully when at your house, I will suggest an idea, which is striking, to show how easy it will be for the northern states to rival the southern in substituting the value of the cotton by our Merinos. One million of Merino sheep will give five million pounds of fine wool, supposing them to be composed of ewes and wethers in equal proportions.—Five million pounds of fine wool are worth now ten millions of dollars; and even at the peace price in England, seven and one half millions of dollars.

Fourteen million pounds of cotton (the quantity exported in one year from South Carolina and Georgia) taking the short and long staple together at the utmost is not worth five millions of dollars at the London market.—The states of New York and Massachusetts, either of them, without any material change in their agriculture, except a substitution of Merinos for other sheep, can raise as much wool as shall equal in value to the export of cotton. But how easy it would be once at that point, to double all our Merino flocks—thus leave a larger quantity of wool, than we now have from the same number of sheep, for domestic purposes, of fine wool instead of coarse—and all the surplus for exportation, or to go into future home manufactories?

By the latest accounts from England, Merino wool was selling at 26s. sterling per pound.—The cause of this increase of price is that the intestine war in Spain has so far destroyed the breed of Spanish sheep as to render the wool very scarce. What few of the sheep remained have been transported to France, England, and perhaps other parts of Europe, it will be some time before they are brought to that perfection in any other country to which they had arrived in Spain previous to the revolution. The farmers of America have now a fair object of competition with any other country, in endeavoring to exceed in the breed of sheep, and consequently to command a market for their wool, when more shall be raised than is necessary for the consumption of this country; which will not soon happen, however, as the home manufactures in this article are daily increasing. They have every incentive, both of patriotism and interest, to induce them particularly to attend to this object.

From the Independent American.

SUMACH.—The common sumach (hus glabra of Linnaeus) is a shrub of more important uses than is generally known. While our farmers consider it in no other light than "a cumber of the ground," it is capable of being converted to many useful purposes, and in some of the domestic arts, furnishes a cheap substitute for expensive European articles. Some of these, it may be well to mention, for the benefit of economical farmers and industrious labourers.

The bark of the sumach, as a dye produces in silks and woollens, a good and permanent yellow. The bark should be taken when fresh, and a strong decoction made, and the cloth, before infusion ought to be steeped in a solution of alum. If this be omitted, a fawn colour will be produced.

Sumach leaves, in making ink, are a perfect substitute for galls, now both scarce and dear. Ink made conformably to the following recipe, will be found of good colour and consistence, and will improve with age.

Take of sumach leaves 12 drachms—of sulphate of iron (coperas of the shops) 4 drachms—of gum Arabic two drachms—infuse them into a pint of water. Let it stand 24 hours so near a fire as to keep it moderately heated.

The milk which exudes from a branch of the sumach is the best indelible ink that can be used. Break off one of the stems that supports the leaves, and write what may be wanted with it. In a short time it becomes a beautiful jet black, and can never be washed out.

But a more important use than either of those may be made of the sumach. The indispensable necessity for bark in the process of tanning, is known to all. The demand is now so great, that the oaks in the forest are rapidly demolishing and the price of that article greatly enhanced of late years. The sumach is one of our most astringent vegetables, and in the process of tanning is equally efficacious with oak. It would be a great saving of valuable timber, could the attention of tanners be turned to its use, and it is probable their culture might be found lucrative to the farmer, especially those who have exhausted fields. Sumach will grow in a soil capable of producing almost any thing else. They might cut it close to the ground, and it would thus yield a yearly crop. They might be reduced by the common bark wheel, to a powder, the stocks as well as the bark, thus used.

The sumach also affords an excellent black dye, but I do not know that any convenient process has been discovered for its application.

A FRIEND TO ECONOMY.

[In addition to the observations of our correspondent, we would state, that the valuable qualities of the sumach are known and appreciated in the northern states.—In New London in Connecticut, mills are erected, where large quantities of sumach are manufactured for exportation.—Edit.]

MILITARY.

On the 16th ult. the Washington Light Infantry Company of Boston, commanded by Captain Loring, visited Major General Heath, the venerable hero and patriot who commanded the American Army (composed wholly of militia) at the hard fought and ever memorable battle of Bunker's Hill. He received them with the attentions that became a soldier, and addressed them as follows:

Officers and Members of the Washington Light Infantry, Permit me, gentlemen, to express the pleasure I have enjoyed in viewing your soldier-like appearance, & the correctness with which you handle your arms. Be pleased to accept my thanks for your polite invitation to sit down with you at the Punch Bowl Hotel.—Particular circumstances forbid me that honour. Be pleased also to accept my thanks for your presenting yourselves before my house and giving me military honours. Thus much for myself personally.

As a citizen of the United States, my native country, that country whose independence and sovereignty, honour and prosperity are my primary objects, I thank you for those exertions you are making to render yourselves, so far as in you lies, her able assertors and defenders. Your youth and your energy peculiarly form you for this noble service. Napoleon, the great captain of the age, is shaking a large portion of the world with armies composed of young men like you. Such are like a strong man, whose quiver is filled with chosen arrows, who never will be afraid to speak with an enemy in the gate.

Oh that my fellow-countrymen were more convinced of the vast importance of establishing a correct system of military tactics and discipline, supported by military schools and academies, which would render our young men accomplished soldiers. While this remains neglected, your example, (with that of others like you) is the more important to arouse and animate others; but should you fail in this, you will not lose your reward; for should you ever be called to a field of battle, (which Heaven forbid in our as yet happy country) your skill in the use of arms and knowledge of tactics will then be of unspeakable advantage to you, and ensure an ample share of merited distinction. More than once you have volunteered your services to government; be not weary in well-doing; for although your numbers are but small, your discipline and your patriotism will make way for you. As soldiers and as citizens, may Heaven's favours descend upon you.

WM. HEATH.

The company then returned to their parade, where, after an elegant display of their tactical skill, they were dismissed,

MILITARY INVENTION.—A hitherto obscure man in Edinburg, of the name of Gillespie, has lately constructed the model of an impregnable battery, which contains 120 guns of different calibres, and can be traversed with more facility than one large cannon can be traversed by ten men in the ordinary way. It is shewn as an article of curiosity in Edinburg, for a shilling, and has excited much interest.

Lieut. General Debberg, of the Royal Invalid Engineers, says, "I am most firmly of opinion it may be found of superiour utility on many particular spots, and on great variety of occasions; and as such ought to be adopted by his majesty's servants."

Admirals Sir Sidney Smith, Knight, and Frollope, say in their certificate of the fort, "it appears admirably calculated to defend a post against any attack or surprise, and is, in our opinion, deserving of a trial being made of it, and of the attention of able judges.

"Thus much we venture to assert, that had such a work been constructed in Toulon, on the heights of Grasse, &c. in 1793, the British fleet need not to have made so precipitate a retreat."

Captain Cowan, of the Royal Navy, in a letter to the Secretary of the Admiralty, says, "I have this morning seen one of the most destructive engines ever invented by human ingenuity called an Impregnable Fort, or Battery, and which I do not hesitate to assert, that if it is not immediately adopted by this country, will prove its destruction.

"It may not have occurred to the military gentlemen who have inspected the model of this battery, the facility with which it might be made moveable on wheels to work on the inside, nor the application of it to vessels of easy draught of water, when one of them might bid defiance to our whole navy, and come up the river Thames, and return in defiance of both the army and navy.

"I am induced to trouble their lordships on this occasion, as I think it will appear to them, that his majesty's ministers should, without loss of time, secure the talents of the inventor to this country, and that the model should be immediately lodged in some place of safety, for at present it is in one of the upper apartments of the palace in Kingston Gardens, and

any evil disposed person, of common ingenuity, might carry the invention to the enemy.

"As the plans were being rather carelessly about, I requested the inventor Mr. Gillespie, to let me have them, and they are at present in my possession. He informs me that he had overtures from Russia & Denmark to carry the model to those countries; but fortunately, though struggling under the evils of poverty and neglect, he has continued, like an honest man, attached to his country."



MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

A young Physician of the name of Ramsay lately undertook to give a course of lectures on Anatomy and Physiology at an obscure town in New-Hampshire. The fame of his talents soon drew to his Lectures a great number of attendants, and procured the notice of the trustees of Bowdoin College, in Maine, who have lately employed him to deliver lectures this winter in that institution.

Doctor Coxe, Editor of the Philadelphia Medical Museum, complains of the laxity of the discipline, and intimation to education in the Medical School of Philadelphia. The students were once required to publish and defend Inaugural Theses, a requisition which has lately been dispensed with, and which Doctor Coxe strongly condemns. Doctor Rush, he asserts, is the Colossus that upholds that seminary, but that without more attention to their School it will, notwithstanding the fame of his talents, soon be eclipsed by its aspiring rival of New-York, which has now all the vigor and energy of youth, exerting its talents to raise itself to eminence. N. York is at this time, without doubt, superiour to the School of Philadelphia as a place of instruction, and will probably soon equal it in fame.

Dr. Brickell, of Savannah, in a letter to a physician in Raleigh, has detailed a course of experiments which fully proves that the virus of the Rattle Snake is an acid; paper coloured blue with matter having an alkaline base, had a few drops of the virus pressed upon it from the jaws of the Rattle Snake, and the colour was discharged. Another piece of paper upon which the same experiment had been performed, was dipped in a solution of fixed alkaline salts, and the colour was restored but changed to a pale red.—Hence the Doctor has inferred that alkalis externally applied and internally given are the proper remedies for the bite of this reptile. The pieces of paper upon which the foregoing experiments were made are now in the hands of the Editors.

An eminent Physician was lately cured at Middletown (Connecticut) of a consumption, by the use of Mercury, after all the usual remedies had failed of success. The disease was attended with copious expectoration of purulent matter, and regular exacerbations of hectic fever, and the patient was reduced to the last extremity. Fourteen grains of Calomel, given in less than half as many days, produced a salivation, and he was immediately left without any other disease than debility, of which he rapidly recovered by the use of portier and a generous diet.

Doctor Young, of New-York, in a very elegant dissertation on consumption, addressed to Dr. Mitchell, attributes the increasing prevalence of that disease among females to their cool dresses and exposure to night air.

Doctor L. Kollock, of Savannah, in a late letter to Dr. Barton, of Philadelphia, says "We are becoming more and more familiar with LEAD in Haemorrhages, Dysenteries, &c. and with our familiarity its reputation increases. Medical gentlemen owe you much for the reputation which you have given to this valuable remedy. A case of Haemorrhage from the bowels, of a most formidable state, under the management of my associate Dr. Parker, was entirely cured by the exhibition of five grain doses every three hours, for about thirty-six or forty hours."

The Star.

RALEIGH,

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1809.

On Monday the 13th of November, will commence the Examination of the students of the Raleigh Academy. The evenings of each day will be occupied by the delivery of select speeches and Theatrical exhibitions. It is hoped the Trustees will give due attendance.

The Rev. Mr. Brown, of Salisbury in this State, has lately been appointed professor of Logic & Rhetoric in the University of South Carolina.

The Grand Jurors of the last Superior Court generously gave their pay as a donation to the Raleigh Academy. We hope this worthy example will be followed. MIXERYA

We are pleased to observe the interest with which Mr. Cooper's communication on making Wine, published in our last, was received. Many hundreds, perhaps some one or two thousand barrels of Wine are annually made in this state from wild native grapes, but it is generally made without care or skill, & hence is not held in much estimation; but we believe if as much of either was bestowed upon it as is prescribed by Mr. Cooper, and the mellowing effects of age could be superadded, it would not be much inferior to the wines of France and Spain. The profound judgment and great experience of Mr. Cooper entitle his agricultural facts and opinions to be received with great confidence, and as the communication was published exactly in time to meet the occasion, we expect it to be productive of much benefit. If any should neglect attending to his method in the present vintage, we hope it will not be forgotten in the next.

"GEN. WILKINSON.—The recall and dismissal of this officer are spoken of.—Much as we admire the talents, and have been grateful for the services of Gen. Wilkinson, yet if it appear that Burr's con-

spiracy was the joint project of Wilkinson and himself, we hope he will be dismissed with disgrace. We do not think, that Burr's famous letter to W. J. will be correctly deciphered by Randolph, is sufficient to bring any man to a pause, to "investigating doubt." It would appear from that letter, that Burr and Wilkinson were associates in crime—I fear Wilkinson may say with Wolsey,

"Nay, then, farewell! I've touch'd the highest point of all my greatness, And from that full meridian of my glory, I haste now to my setting."

Supposing general Wilkinson to be as guilty as either traitors represent him, we have additional cause for thankfulness, that one corrupt man tript up the ill designs of another (no matter from what motive) and saved the republic from commotion."

Extract of a letter from New-Orleans, to the Editors of the Freeman's Journal. "Gen Wilkinson makes but a poor figure here—he is daily sinking in estimation, and will before another year roll around, be as contemptible as ever was Burr or Arnold. To use his own expression, Gen. Adair has put him out of the ranks of honour." All the officers of merit are resigning, and indeed they think themselves disgraced by being under his command. You will find sufficient notice of him in the prints of the day."

PRICES CURRENT.

FAYETTEVILLE.

Table listing prices for various commodities like Wheat, Flour, Corn, etc. in Fayetteville.

RICHMOND.

Table listing prices for various commodities like Tobacco, Wheat, Flour, etc. in Richmond.

To Readers and Correspondents.

"Nima" has been some time on our file, and as we are flattered by the coincidence in opinion respecting the evils of party spirit, we shall at some convenient time give his essay a place.

A patriotic correspondent who has recommended (provided the main College building should ever be completed) to add to our University some new Professorships, and who has suggested the means of supporting them, is informed that we honour his motives and exertions, and value his correspondence. His communication shall have a place in our next. The professorships proposed are, 1st. History, Divinity, and Moral Philosophy. 2d. Chymistry, Agriculture and other kindred arts. 3d. Mathematics, Natural Philosophy and Astronomy. 4th. Greek and Roman Literature. 5th. The English Language (Rhetoric and Belles Lettres.)

"Historicus" on the orthography of the name of Raleigh shall have an early insertion.

The style and manner of "AMERICANUS" are totally at variance with his professions. He has heartily his essay with an excellent motto, borrowed from one of our public papers,

"Ours are the plans of fair delightful Peace, Unwar'd by party rage to live like brothers."

and yet he proclaims peace in such a hostile manner that we feel ourselves compelled to exclude his communication.

A desire to offer something to the public on the subject of Roads, before or during the meeting of the General Assembly, induces us to repeat the request for the communication of the paper on that subject originally published in Edinburg; we believe in the Caledonian Mercury. We shall feel an obligation for the favour which we shall endeavor to repay by making the public better acquainted with the many and great benefits resulting from Turnpike Roads. Carey's Museum, a work not within our reach, may probably contain it.

A Bargain.

ON Saturday the 18th of November ensuing, at the market-house in the City of Raleigh, William L. Turner will offer for sale his House and Lot (as advertised some time since) together with such articles of household furniture, stock, &c. as he cannot conveniently carry with him. Raleigh, October 9, 1809.

Notice.

THE Subscriber having a wish to remove to the western country next spring, requests all those indebted to him, and Cummins and Burrow, to make immediate payment in order that they may meet the demands a joint them. A failure in our creditors to comply with the above request will inevitably involve them in law in the course of thirty days, as the accounts have been of long standing.

HENRY BURROW.

Randolph County, October 8, 1809.