

Chambers's The Cape-Town Recorder.

"In proportion as the structure of government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened."—WASHINGTON.

Vol. I.

MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 10, 1816.

No. 5.

WILMINGTON, N. C.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED WEEKLY, BY
THOMAS LORING.

TERMS.

Three dollars per year—payable half yearly in advance.

No subscription taken for less than one year. Subscribers will be considered on the list, and be considered responsible for payment to an indefinite period, unless a wish should be signified to withdraw their names.

Advertisements will be continued until forbidden—they will be inserted at the established prices in Wilmington.

Letters to the Editor must be post paid.

MISCELLANY.

NATIONAL HOSPITALITY.

FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PRESS.

There is nothing in our view which contributes more eminently to the glory and happiness of the United States than her capacity and disposition to protect the persecuted and unfortunate of all nations. Her bosom is the asylum where the victims of superstition and of political intolerance may seek for the balm of consolation; where, the wounded spirit of the proscribed may regain its peace and the humiliated subject of domestic power resume the dignity which heaven designed for him at his creation. To the American citizen it is ever the cause of high exultation. Thus the courage and constancy of his forefathers and of himself, have enabled him to offer to the world a participation in his enviable privileges; and although all the better feelings of the heart are gratified by the exercise of national hospitality, it is not from such gratification only that our reward arises. By the exercise of this virtue, our country has exchanged its gloomy forests for cultivated fields, its barbarous huts and caves, for commodious towns and comfortable farm houses; it has increased our population in a ratio unexampled, and multiplied our produce beyond calculation; it has given to the country a strength, which puts to defiance every attempt to destroy it. It has surrounded our liberties and our happiness with a defensive barrier, which external force in vain shall attempt to rend asunder; and which can only be injured by the workings of internal corruption. From this source, our means of enjoyment have been multiplied. The polish of Courts and the dulcet pleasures of Taste which cost Europe an age of centuries to acquire, have been seized by us, like the Promethean fire, to animate and embellish our existence. From this cause is our character compounded of the best traits of civilized Europe. We have the manly independence of the ancient Briton, the frankness and courage of the Irish, the refined philosophy and benevolence of the French, the lucrative industry of the Germans, and the ingenuity and wariness of the Italian. To the citizens and subjects of every country we have given protection, and from each have we received an equivalent. Perhaps, were the actual account accurately stated, the great weight of obligation would appear upon our side. We have given to foreigners the right to remain unmolested among us, we have given them a country and a home. They have greatly assisted to make that country glorious, and that home safe and pleasurable.

We have been led into these reflections by the arrival from France of many of her eminent and persecuted citizens, and the determination of many others to seek at our hands the boon, which we have made the right of all nations. To the people of France we owe much. For whatever may have been the motives of policy which induced her king to afford aid to our revolutionary exertions, the services rendered by his subjects were animated by a better principle than mere obedience to the royal mandate, or subservience to state policy. One soul, ever the domain of liberty, shed its influence upon their hearts; they felt with us, and they fought with us, and they conquered with us like freemen.

The French Royalists found us protection from political fanaticism, and we firmly believe, that were the emigrants who formerly sought safety into America, permitted to approach the throne of the Bourbons, they would evince that they had learned from us political toleration. The present fugitives have the strongest claims upon our attention and affections. As Frenchmen in common with all their country they claim our gratitude. As politicians, they have ever been men of the nation, whether under the name of republicans or imperialists. And that spirit which seeks to attain and secure human rights by known and equitable laws, whose authority is above that of the government, must be assimilated to the genius of our constitutions. As kindred spirits therefore they merit from us the right hand of fellowship. But they have other claims upon us which even the capacious spirit of party itself cannot disallow; genius and science are of no country. They are children of a higher sphere and denizens of this. Their labors though applied for the benefit of one nation, advantage the whole human race and become a debt due from all which none should hesitate to pay. He who improves the science of war increases the arms of the weak against the strong; he who explores and unfolds the workings of nature in her secret operations increases our knowledge, and consequently our means of happiness. Knowledge is useful to the despot, because by it, he is better enabled to master the will of his subjects—no one governed more absolutely and with less danger than the philosophic Frederick. The Autocrat of all the Russians justly appreciates it and whilst unhappy France rendered still more unhappy by her retrograde in science, throws from her its favorites, the icy bosom of the north is open to give them succor. Knowledge is still more advantageous to the people, because it better enables them to govern themselves; to watch and to estimate the conduct of their agents, and generally to promote their happiness. War and intolerance removed the guard of the golden fleece of Spain and we have honestly participated in the division of the flock. Despotism and religious fanaticism are destroying the national institute of France, are chasing her best men from her territories, and it is a duty we owe to them and to ourselves to make them happy in the asylum of their choice.

FROM THE VIRGINIA ARCH.

CORBETT'S AMERICAN POLITICAL REGISTER.

The phenomenon of a newspaper published in the United States of America, but edited and controlled by a British subject residing in England, is actually exhibited in New York. Mr. Cobbett's son and his coadjutor, have arrived in that city, and made arrangements for the publication of the grand scheme.

Bonaparte's plan of a federative empire was scarcely more extensive, more sweeping, than this singular spread of typographical notation. It reminds us of the Vine which the mother of the elder Cyrus is related to have seen in a dream, and which extended its branches over Europe, Asia and Africa—America was not then known. There is something bold in the conception of such a project; and if its execution should fail, it may be said of Mr. Cobbett, as of the presumptuous youth who attempted to guide the car of the Sun and to illumine the whole world, *magnis tamen excidit pusis!*

On this subject, we are unwilling to say much. Let some printers concentrate, and others ramify; we have no objections to their schemes, provided the mass of the people be benefitted by the result. This is the main point; and of this the people themselves are the only proper judges. All we have to do, in our editorial capacity, is to warn the people against those delusions which may be intended, and which time alone will fully develop.

And, first, we would—& the republicans, if they can forget the Neocentian course of unbounded and violent passion on whatever they hold dear, veterans, and saved, pursued by Mr. Cobbett in the early part of his political career, under the name of Peter Porcupine? Can they likewise forget the caresses and rewards bestowed upon him by the British ministers and their friends on his return to England? Those rewards, however, did not satisfy him; for, he soon after enlisted under the banners of the opposition; and he has ever since waged against those ministers an active, obstinate, and deadly war—dragging forth from their secret recesses the hideous monsters of corruption, venality, oppression, machiavellism, and perfidy—and, O, inconceivable change! eulogizing, even to satiety, America, American institutions. In such a man, can we rationally place that confidence which arises from a communion of principles, views and objects? Are our ranks so thin, that we should invite, and, with open arms, receive into them, every specious adventurer? Is our cause so feeble, that it should require such auxiliaries? No—there is in republicanism an inherent dignity that frowns upon this camouflaged inconsistency. There is, too, a spotless purity, that shrinks from the touch of this pollution—and, Heaven be thanked for it!—America possesses a moral strength of her own, to which Mr. Cobbett can add but little.

—don defensoribus latiss

Tempus, egit.

We are not singular in our opinion of Mr. Cobbett, and his scheme. We find, in the Washington City Weekly Gazette, of May 18, a well written article, which, in our view of men and things, does infinite honor both to the head and to the heart of the author. We regret the impossibility of laying before our readers the whole of that interesting article. Our limits compel us to confine ourselves to the subjoined extracts:

"If, says the writer, Mr. Cobbett knows facts, which it is of importance for the citizens of the United States to be informed of, why does he not, himself, come among us, and furnish us with all the particulars? On this head, we will venture an opinion, that he finds the business of opposition too profitable in England to be relinquished; but, following the mercantile or commercial course, he can preserve his present custom at home, and set up a house for his son in America. This we consider to be his true aim—and as to his philanthropic professions, we look upon them as mere hypocritical cant and knavish pretext."

The circumstance of a newspaper published in this country, and edited and controlled by a British subject residing in England, is, in itself, singular; and sufficient to occasion vigilance, if not to awaken suspicion. Suppose Mr. Cobbett (a thing not in the least improbable, considering the supineness of the man's mind) should slip into the pay of the English ministry? He might insinuate, through his Register in the United States, and even do it with an air of patriotism, thoughts extremely noxious to the republican principles of the American people; and thereby serve the cause of royalty more efficiently than if he were the avowed advocate of all its deeds.

In the following strictures, the writer very properly animadvert on the true nature of the topics, which are likely to constitute the substance and marrow of Mr. Cobbett's valuable communications to the American public. We do not blame Mr. Cobbett for touching strongly and frequently upon those subjects—but it is unquestionably true that those political diatribes produce very little effect, if any. After reading or hearing them, kings and ministers are very apt to say, like the usurer in Gil Blas—"Truly this is a fine sermon; the preacher has performed his task; let us go and perform ours!"—And, like the usurer, they are generally more keen and more ardent in the performance of that task, after the sermon than before. But to the concluding extract:

"In truth, continues the Gazette, what has Mr. Cobbett to tell us? That, in an old monarchy, corruptions have sprung up? That the people are heavily taxed? That there are royal favorites, and sinecure places? That in England there is a stupendous paper system?—And that persons in authority trample on the necks of the poorer classes? Are these to be the topics of his communications? It is to be inferred, from his intimations, that they are. And are these things new to the American mind? Do we not find the same facts staring us in the face from the days of Nimrod to those of George the third?—From the period of the Assyrian empire to that of the paramount dominion of Great Britain?—From the page of Herodotus to

the page of Homer? Surely it is not necessary for Mr. Cobbett to send his son hither to inform us that vice and misery increase with the populousness of a state; that crimes augment in proportion to the density of communities; that cunning men govern the ignorant; and that established power will persevere itself by strong or vicious means, if it can do so by weak and virtuous ones.

Mr. Cobbett has associated these truths, in his prolix manner, in what way are the citizens of the United States to be bettered by his lucubrations? Does he wish the Americans to draw the conclusion, that the English people being in a very wretched condition as he asserts, and their rulers very corrupt, we, in this country, ought to be satisfied and happy? That our happiness is to be measured by contrast with that of a foreign people? And until we reach the alleged miserable condition of that people, that we ought to regard ourselves as the most enlightened, the freest, and the most virtuous inhabitants of this globe?

Now, in our judgment, this would be a very silly conclusion. There are many degrees of sin before a man comes to be as bad as the devil; and many shades of wickedness before a nation reaches the dark night of despotism. By the way, we by no means consider the British monarchy as a despotism. On the contrary, we believe that, where the crown or the government is not immediately concerned, there is as much justice, and almost as much freedom of the press, in England as in America. In this respect, we need only appeal to the adjudications of the British tribunals, forming in many cases, precedents for our own; and to the many liberal and even licentious productions, in that Kingdom. Witness the republication in that country of Mr. Dallas's pamphlet on the causes of the late war, embracing an enumeration of facts highly incalculative of the political justice and honor of the British government; witness Mr. Cobbett's own Register; than which there is no publication in the United States more audacious or scurrilous. In reality, it is not essential for us to know either the views of the English ministry or the sufferings of the English people, in order to enlighten us as to our own welfare. Let us watch our own rulers. Let not our attention be attracted abroad. To have it perpetually rung in our ears that the people of England are slaves and their king a tyrant, is to fall precisely into the error into which the English themselves have, to their cost and sorrow, fallen with respect to France. It was always the artifice of the British government to impress it on the minds of its subjects that they were infinitely more happy than the French, and superior to them; and hence have arisen endless quarrels and wars, repressive of the peace and prosperity of the world, and of the progress of the arts and sciences. If we listen to Mr. Cobbett, he will instill the same ideas into our heads, foment discord between the two countries, enrich his family, and laugh at American credulity.

As foreigners emigrating to the United States and devoting themselves to an honest vocation, we have not the least objection to the pursuit of Mr. Cobbett's son and his coadjutor—but it would be a reproach to the national understanding, if we were to suffer ourselves to be cozened by the numerous eulogies bestowed upon the Americans by that writer. For two years past, he has showered upon the people of this country the grossest flatteries. He may play the part of the strolling Spaniard in Gil Blas, and expect a good support; but he may depend on it that our fellow citizens have sense enough not to believe him, when he virtually assures them that they are the eighth wonder of the world."

AN AMERICAN IN FRANCE.

FROM A BOSTON PAPER.

We have been allowed the perusal of the manuscript notes of an intelligent traveller, lately returned from Europe, and have been permitted to make extracts from them. They contain a fund of useful information relative to the countries which he visited, accompanied with remarks, which his attentive observation and extensive information have rendered highly valuable. We are obliged to-day to confine our extracts to the following passages relative to the allied troops in France.

Extracts from the memorandum of a traveller in Europe, in 1815 and 1816.

ALENCON, SEPTEMBER 1, 1815.

The roads are full of Prussian troops—50,000 having been sent to Bretagne. Heavy contributions are levied for their support. Soldiers are well dressed and disciplined; blue frock coats and linen pantaloons, shoes strongly nailed like French shoes in Bretagne, though most of the peasants wear wooden ones; guns excellent, locks well covered with leather, buttoned over them; bayonets rather short—cavalry of various descriptions; light, with pikes, having red and white *faucons* or little flags, sword and pistols; cuirassiers with long swords. Prussian officers have strong iron stays of cuirasses; hussars very elegant, have large grey fur caps; all the soldiers wear brass medals, having their time of service marked on them; are generally very young.

SEPTEMBER 8.

Go to Vertus, 30 leagues from Paris, to attend the review of the Russian army. Was detained for passports, and arrived at the middle of the first day's review. Have a view of the emperors, &c.—Cossack artillery, line of 160,000 Russians, fine, young athletic men, in elegant and neat uniforms. The Cossacks are now generally enrolled in regular cavalry, well armed and well mounted, in uniform, with spears and without *faucons* like the Prussians and Poles. The troops wheel in the English mode, but employ markers.

On the second day, the whole army formed seven divisions in hollow squares, *strutting one side*, around magnificent green *marquees*. The review of both days was on the beautiful and endless plains of Champagne, overlooked by two very elevated heights, filled with spectators. The whole army went through a religious ceremony, the mass of the Greek church. The priests were in long

silk gowns, generally of black, but some russet, with very long thick beards. The whole army partook of the ceremony with hats off, and with great solemnity. The emperor Alexander resembles the pictures we see of him, smiling and bowing to every group of strangers, and without any apparent taste for military matters, conversing with those about him, and looking at every thing but the army. The emperor of Austria is thin and aged; was dressed in elegant uniform. Neither emperor was distinguished by his exterior from their officers, except Alexander, by a blue sash, and Francis by a red one, with a white stripe in the middle. The king of Prussia and Lord Wellington were present, and the English lady Shelby. She is an elegant rider, was in a plain dress, mounted on an uncommonly fine horse, leaping ditches in fine style, and rode with the emperors, &c. Wellington was in plain military dress, without epaulettes.

SEPTEMBER 20.

Attended the English review at St. Denis, of 60,000 men, including a few Belgians and Bruns-wickers. The cavalry were very splendid and perfect. The artillery apparently perfect, but their caissons said not to be so convenient in manoeuvring as the Prussian, which are on two wheels. The English caissons are divided into two boxes on each axle-tree, the axle-tree connected by a pole with a joint in the middle, and surpass the French much in manoeuvring. The infantry were not remarkably nice in the smaller tactics, but generally correct. Each platoon officer was covered by a sergeant with a long pike. Lord Wellington was on a small grey horse, kicking and headstrong; rides capably, but carelessly, easing himself awkwardly by resting on the stirrups; his dress was very plain, without plume or epaulettes; is 5 feet 8 inches high, not large, face not very striking. He made no preparations for manoeuvres, but showed the principal movements of the battle of Salamanca. Schwartzburg was present; is about 50 years old, large, 5 feet 10 inches high, with a lively dark eye, mainly heroic expression, and an openness of countenance little resembling commodore Hull. Lord Cathcart also was present; he is about 50, has very knotty features, dark complexion, hard face, is small and thin. The emperor of Austria was in elegant uniform, white coat and scarlet pantaloons; is about 50, rather thin, has a long face, grave, thoughtful and intelligent, though not strikingly so.

OCTOBER 6.

Depart for Dijon to see the Austrian army, with a French major, and a Swiss officer of the king of Prussia's guards. The first was in the campaign of Moscow; says that not near all the French army were engaged in the battle of Moscow; three bridges were thrown over the Berezina in ten hours, the river 300 toises wide. He was wounded badly at Waterloo; French cavalry charged often through the English infantry and infantry. The French used no rifles, a few lancers. He says the Cossacks are good against cavalry only, that they will not stand fire, nor the Russian tirailleurs in the open spaces; in the square fire do not load for the second, both manoeuvre by guides.

The Austrian park of artillery is immense; many liecrons and a great number of French pieces. The carriages are too slight, and have good axle-trees. All the caissons and baggage wagons are of wicker work. The troops seem inferior to the other allied troops, though generally stouter men. The head-quarters are the most beautiful encampments that can be imagined, formed of green boughs, and immense quantities of twigs arranged in all shapes, forming arches, columns, national coats of arms of the allies, lions, eagles, stags, &c. in high taste. The Austrian picked troops, guards of infantry and cavalry, are the finest looking troops I have seen in Europe.

OCTOBER 12.

In the Diligence meet three French captains, about 40 years old, returning home, one after an absence of 7 years, one of 11, and the other of 12—also a nun, who was smart talkative, intelligent, and inquisitive—rather haughty, in full dress, with beads, ears, crosses, white cap or kind of cape bonnet. She reads her prayer book two or three times a day, and crosses herself at every crucifix, they being frequent on the road. She had not taken vows for life. The sisterhood are employed generally in school keeping, or as nurses in the hospitals. Two of the officers who had been in the army of Spain, complained that Bonaparte was prejudiced against that army, and gave them no promotion, decorations not pay. The third had served under Murat, at Naples; he called Murat hot headed, but said that Caroline was able, popular, and the favorite of Napoleon—she is generally esteemed a dissolute character. Their son, eleven years old, is a fine horseman, and can manoeuvre a regiment well.

PARTICULARS OF THE LOSS OF THE BRIG PHILIP.

Captain Chazal, late of the brig Philip, has arrived at Boston, and furnishes the following particulars—"Sailed from Charleston, April 13, with a cargo of cotton and rice, bound to Bordeaux. On the 24th, lat. 41, long. 45, was struck by a whale adrift the stem, which rose immediately after, astern. By the blow we received, the stem and cutwater were laid athwart ship to the starboard from the scuff of the keel to the scuff of the stem, which was a foot above water; took in all sail, set both pumps to work, but the leak increased so fast that in half an hour the water was above the cabin door; hove every thing off deck, cut away the mainmast, tried every experiment with blankets, &c. to stop the leak, but without effect; got out the long boat; put in some provisions and clothing; the officers, crew, and passengers, got into her and left the brig; next day fell in with the Contest, and was received on board. April 28, fell in with the brig again; found her full of water, dead lights out; sent a boat on board, but was not able to save any thing from her, except four bales of cotton, the sea making a complete breach over her. Supposed the cotton on board was the only thing that kept her from sinking."