

Of a voyage from St. Louis, Louisiana, to the Mandan Village, undertaken by the St. Louis Missionary Fur Company, for the purpose of conducting Shekech, the Mandan Chief to his nation, and to establish trading houses on the head waters of the Missouri—by Doctor THOMAS, Surgeon to the party.

(CONCLUDED.)

On the 12th September, we arrived at the villages of the Richarees, who appeared much alarmed, and refused to come to council on that day, or at all, unless hostages were exchanged.

Having agreed with the Rees for an exchange of hostages, their fears were somewhat allayed, and a friendly intercourse took place. In the council they were asked, why they had attacked the party on the former expedition, under the command of Lieut. Prior? They replied, that they were informed by a Frenchman, who resides with them, that the goods and barges were sent to them by their great father the President of the United States as presents, that Lieut. Prior only gave them Medals, which they at first accepted, but on discovering that the goods were detained, they stamped upon the Medals and attacked the boats; these circumstances, together with the solicitations of the aforesaid Frenchman to fire on the white people, was the cause of the unhappy misunderstanding.

The commander of the expedition, Mr. Pierre Chouteau, demanded the French man; he was informed, that he lived with a tribe of their nation called the Scions, about 50 miles south, that he was married and had a family—on Mr. Chouteau's insisting on having him delivered up, they agreed to send a party of their young men to accompany Mr. C's detachment to the village;—however, when the party was prepared to set out, they refused to send the escort, so the affair was abandoned for the present.

We found that the Richarees & Mandans were at peace, a party of the latter were on a visit at the village, who were much pleased to see their countryman (Shekech) return safe. In the council, the Rees' demands were similar to the Soux; they expressed extreme sorrow at the recollection of their differences with Lieut. Prior, and their profuse hospitality in giving corn and meat, evinced their satisfaction at the return of a friendly intercourse. Two of the principal Soux Chiefs having accompanied us to the villages, also made peace with the Rees; however, the latter expressed their sentiments very freely of the Soux—they said, they only come to beg presents & smoke for horses, that they would pay little attention to their engagements that they would break the treaty when opportunity offered. Shekech appeared perfectly at home; he handed the calumnet round the council room with all the gravity of an aboriginal statesman and warrior.

The Richaree Towns are built on a handsome prairie, on the south side, about 300 yards apart, having a small river between, which put into the Missouri; their lodges are built somewhat similar to the Mahas, with the addition of having a covered entrance of 3, 10 or 15 yards, they appear to live much more comfortable than any of the other tribes, having their huts divided into chambers with a neatness in their construction which we had not witnessed before; their corn fields which border the Missouri are well fenced and better cultivated than many farms on the frontiers of the United States. Corn, Pumpions, Simlins, Beans, Peas, Melons and a variety of other vegetables, are raised in abundance. Tobacco is not forgotten, this plant is much attended to, so much so as to form a considerable article of their trade.

The Rees believe in the existence of a Supreme Being, they also believe in the existence of an evil spirit whom they worship in order to be on good terms with him, as they conceive he has power to spoil their huts and destroy their corn and vegetables; among the multitude of deities I shall mention two kinds, a number of buffalo heads are fixed on poles in close and regular order, fantastically painted and decorated with feathers, the other consists of a box filled with small bones, buttons, beads, burnt feathers and a variety of other trash, which is generally in possession of their conjurer and doctor, he visits the sick, performs a number of fantasies, such as swallowing knives and arrows, blowing on and rubbing the patient; while this is performing, the miraculous box is hung over the sick; should his efforts fail in restoring the patient, he is carried to the margin of the river in view of the Buffalo heads, where stones are heated and a place erected over them to lay the deceased, he is then covered with Buffalo skins or blankets and a steam created by throwing water on the hot stones, a violent perspiration is soon produced in which state he is thrown into the river, this is their last trial, which if not efficacious, the tormentors cease and the wretched being is left to his fate.

The women are rather handsomer than otherwise, they are treated in the same manner as among the other tribes, all the labors of the field, preparing food, dressing skins and fur, making clothes for their brutal masters fall to their lot; they buy their wives and consider them as beasts of burden; the men occupy their time in hunting, smoking and the care of their horses. The company left a small boat with goods to exchange for horses with these people.

On the 14th of September we left the Rees for the Mandan villages, having a succession of charming weather. I went on shore in several places; the only appearance of fertility is confined to the low grounds along the bank of the river, on the hills which in many places approach the shore, I observed in many places the remains of volcanic matter: pumice is found in abundance, generally of a purple and brown color. About half way between the Rees and Mandans the white bear is first seen, from information which I received from the hunters, he is doubtless the size of the black bear, and extremely ferocious, being the despotic tyrant of the plains and forest.

On the 21st we arrived at the first Mandan village, this tribe had separated from the nation and had removed thirty miles down the river, Shekech prevailed on them to return and become friendly; here we discovered that he was only the chief of one of the villages, where we next day

arrived, on our approach a salute was fired from the barges and answered by the village in raising the American flag, the barges were soon crowded with the natives, and mutual congratulations took place.

The gentlemen being invited to dine by Shekech's brother, we found a plentiful supply of good provisions, the ladies had prepared a large stew of meat, corn and vegetables, and our feast was seasoned by genuine hospitality. In the afternoon we prepared to visit the upper towns, an elegant horse was presented to their travelled chief, who had put on his full dress uniform suit; his horse was not forgot, he displayed considerable taste in dressing him in scarlet and gold laced housings with a highly mounted bridle and saddle; thus equipped, we set out accompanied by thirty or forty of the natives on horseback, the singularity of our reception is worthy of notice; having rode to the centre of the village, we remained some time before we were invited to enter the house of the chief; I was informed that it was the custom on all occasions to stand in the most public place and wait the invitation of some of the chiefs, otherwise it would be considered a gross violation of etiquette to enter the dwelling of any of these people without a form of invitation.

Shekech's conduct amused us very much, his splendid uniform and horse furniture, his fine figure, his anxiety to appear to advantage, with the contrast when compared with his brother chiefs, who appeared impatient for the presents which they expected to receive from him. These articles he received from the American government, and had rendered him in his opinion the greatest man in his country; it was expected by his people that he would be very liberal in the distribution of his valuables, however their hopes were vain. Shekech was as anxious to retain his property, as they were to receive it, murmur took the place of mirth, and on our departure from the village his popularity was on the decline.

A few miles above the upper villages the principal trading house was built, and the hunting parties amounting in all to about 100 men, set out for the three forks of the Missouri. Information was received here that the Blackfoot Indians who reside at the foot of the mountains, were hostile, that the British had factories all over the country and had impelled them to cut off Mr. Manuel Lisa's party; one of the survivors of the name of Coulter, who had accompanied Lewis and Clark, says, that he in company with another was fired on by these Indians, that his companion who made resistance was killed, his canoe, clothing, traps and arms taken from him, and when expecting to receive the fate of his comrade, he was ordered to run off as fast as possible, which he coldly complied with, observing one of their young men following at full speed armed with a spear, he pushed on to some distance endeavoring to save his life, in a few minutes the sayage was near enough to pitch his spear, which he poised and threw with such violence as to break the handle and miss the object. Coulter became the assailant, turned on the Indian and put him to death with the broken spear; naked and tired he crept to a river where he hid in a beaver's dam from the band who had followed to revenge the death of their companion; having observed the departure of the enemy, he left the river and came to the Gros Ventre a tribe of the Mandans, a journey of nine days, without even moccasins to protect him from the prickly pear, which covered the country, subsisting on such berries as Providence threw in his way.

On our return to the Ree villages we found that the Soux had killed some of their people which they unaccountably blamed us for, and being privately informed they intended us mischief, we set out in the night ordering the men to sleep on board, unfortunately two of the hands, one of the name of Aaron Whitney, native of Massachusetts, went into the village contrary to our order, and were left behind; we arrived at St. Louis in 40 days from the Company's trading house above the Gros Ventre's without any other accident.

FROM THE SALEM GAZETTE.

The following curious article we find in the Globe (an anti ministerial paper) of the 24th November. It is there put upon the footing of an important state paper. Should any of our readers deem it a spurious production, still it may not be uninteresting as a speculation upon American affairs.

LETTER

From General Champagne to His Excellency the Count of—, on repealing the act of Embargo by the Congress of the United States.

Your excellency asks my opinion on the raising of the Embargo, that has existed more than a year past in the United States. I answer, and do not hesitate to say, that this measure is a masterpiece; it is one of the most dexterous combinations that ever came out of the British Cabinet. It will be easy for me to demonstrate to your Excellency. The shutting of the sound and of Trieste becoming every day more inevitable, the English Merchants were about to find themselves deprived of all communication with the continent, *totò diviso orbe Britannico*. The vast prohibitory system so wisely conceived by the genius that governs France, was about to receive its entire execution. Overstocked with the merchandize of the two Indies, without any possible vent, their manufactures discarded from the immense continent (of America) as well as ours, England was really going to receive the price of her insatiable avarice, and to sink under the weight of her usurped riches. What was necessary to save her from this crisis, to aid her to transport to every point of the globe, where her own flag could not go, the enormous quantities of merchandize of every kind heaped upon the banks of the Thames? The succour of a people essentially adventurers, active, ambitious, possessing an immense mercantile marine, navigating at a small expense, knowing how to penetrate any where, not shrinking from any danger, to satisfy an equal thirst of gold. This succour she has just obtained by the raising of the American embargo. The last letters from America assert that this measure was carried to almost open force by the federal party; that is to say, the ENGLISH PARTY. It is well known that two thirds a part of the American commerce is carried on

with English capital and for English accounts; hence it results that the vast extent which this self called American commerce is going to take, must definitely turn to the advantage of the English commerce, which was on the brink of destruction. Who then can be the dupe of that impartiality Congress affects to observe in this act? The smallest shop boy in London would not suffer himself to be thus imposed on.

The same demand is made of France and England, that one and the other respect their flag and they threaten to shut their ports to either that should violate their neutrality and even to declare war; but above all, as France is about to lose the last of her possessions in the West Indies, the American people well know that there was nothing to fear from her; and that in keeping at a distance from our coasts in Europe, we cannot touch their vessels; whereas, England, mistress of the neighboring seas, of the United States can strike a sensible blow when she pleases. It was then necessary to appear neutral, to find means of satisfying England, without appearing to submit to her tyrannical pretensions; and here is what has been thought of, and already put in practice, according to the most authentic information just received.—On the sailing of the packet-boat, the Mentor of New York, more than 100 vessels were loading, or had sailed, for Holland, where they well knew they would not be received; and where they had no intention of going; already several have arrived in England, in defiance of the law of Congress, and notwithstanding the bond and security given not to approach the English coast. They get themselves taken by the first English ship they meet with, prove afterwards that the property is English, are leased, and with a good process verbal of the captain, they avoid the penalty incurred. They pay in England the duty fixed by the orders in council, and go where they please. But this particular simulation does not suffice for all the combinations of commerce in general; they have found other means of giving it the greatest possible latitude.—The American vessels, go and there are many on their way, to the island of Madeira, which is to be considered as neutral, and which will become a vast depot; there they land their produce, the English will bring them theirs, and they will barter with each other the merchandize of the two worlds. It will be the same at St. Bartholomew's, and in all the islands which call themselves neutral. The English manufactures will be accompanied with Swedish or German certificates of origin, and will enter, without difficulty, on the continent of America. From these different places of deposit, the Americans will inundate North and South America with English productions; they will come and fill all the ports in Europe, where they are allowed to enter, and there will be a complete English monopoly, re-established with the people, by which she will be enabled to face the expenses during a century to come, of a war which she alone maintains, and which she has so much interest to prolong. Without raising the embargo, how could England have made subsist, for any time, all her colonies and conquests? How could the Spanish colonies prolong their disobedience to the laws of their sovereign?—How could the unfortunate island of St. Domingo maintain itself against the fury of parties which tear it to pieces? How, in fine, without the numberless succors of every kind, which are going to be carried to them, could the revolted provinces in the south of Spain resist so long the forces employed to reduce them? Thus sir, on whatever side you view the question of raising the embargo, it is one of the greatest victories England ever gained for her commerce; one of the most fatal measures to the system adopted by the mediator of the continent of Europe which, was on the point of receiving the fruits of so many privations and sacrifices, and which perhaps is going to be lost for ever.

To console us for this destructive resolution, the United States are good enough to permit the importation of some wines and brandies. What a compensation! Now, it will take twenty cargoes of those articles to pay for one of colonial produce; and all the gold of France will run away by torrents as it did not long since, when the Americans came into our ports by hundreds!—Besides, who does not know, that they give a decided preference to the wines of Madeira, of Spain and Portugal, as having more body; and to the brandies of Catalonia, as being cheaper? And moreover, not content to consume it themselves, they will hawk it about the North of Europe, to the great prejudice of ours for which we found a considerable vent by land. They will send us tobacco; but do it suit us to let perish a new branch of agriculture, which is making daily the greatest progress, and frees us from a burdensome foreign tribute?—Cottons, too; but cannot the Levant furnish us with enough, & take in exchange the rich productions of our manufactures?—Sugars and coffee; where can they get it for themselves, if not from the possessions of England, of her conquests?—Will they have the effrontery to bring us the produce of our own colonies, now become the prey of our enemies? This would be too much!—What care we for those costly superfluities, the consumption of which is of so much injury to our own soil? If our epicures cannot do without, our privateers will not let them want.

Many more reflections, sir, might have been added to what I have just said; but let us confine ourselves to this. The Americans, tolerated by us as neutrals, will do us still greater injury, with regard to the exportation of our grain. They can carry theirs much cheaper to all the people that consume ours; and being at equal price, and even higher, will always be preferred by the English. They will bring it to Spain and Portugal, and deprive us of the last vent that still remained to our southern departments. All that has been said until now, relates not only to France, but to the countries subject to her influence or under her dominion, and from which may be drawn this exact and melancholy consequence; that all maritime commerce or colonial, admitted or tolerated on the continent of Europe, will always turn to the advantage of the English people, and will furnish them with the means of prolonging the war; that the Americans are about to become the

most powerful auxiliaries to this country, that the veil under which they pretend to hide, will give a new energy; that it is the interest of France and of her allies, to do all possible means, that odious connivance, the people who call themselves our friends, the eternal enemies of our repose and prosperity.

I was on the point of forwarding my letter, I learned from a good source that all is now arranged between England and the United States, and according to news of the 29th April, mutual satisfaction. This open and frank the United States is at least more decently at first adopted. They have agreed to English not to come to France, Holland, and to take from the fault (admitte the price). A new order of council of the 29th April declares those countries, in a rigorous state, made! All the ports of the United States, merly, open to the English commerce, excellent! It remains to be known which happy combinations will not be rendered by him who so well knows how to have it executed. Will he suffer all the countries France to be inundated with English goods could fraudulently be introduced into his? Whether the frontiers of Germany or Switzerland will not be as rigorously shut as are those land whether any of our allies will not join in the exclusion of a flag which has become so dangerous—whether precautions will not be carried to the greatest pitch of severity, whether we must not learn, definitively to out some factitious engagements, and prevent one or two millions more of our perishing as victims to English monopoly and cupidity!

Remarks of the Editor of N. York E. F. I give the above letter as it came, and self believe it genuine; that is I believe written by a Frenchman of rank in Bonaparte's court. It seems to be the third in the series which I published the two first. Last translated here from the original French in my hands in a way, and coming from a that convinced me it was no forgery. The man of some eminence in the state of New York who knows, I believe, that they are not for More I cannot say at present.

THE CELEBRATED RAGER

SIR ARCHIE

A FINE bay, five feet four inches high, by Old Diomed, out of Castrania, who was imported by Mr. John Tayloe of Mount Airy, Virginia, and sent over to him as the best stock in England; she was got by Rockingham out of a Trentham, &c.

Will stand at Newhope, two miles from town of Halifax, the ensuing season, which commence the 15th day of February and end the 1st day of August, to cover mares at forty shillings the season, which may be discharged by payment of ten pounds Virginia currency, 1st day of January, 1811.

Good and extensive pasturage and board gratis; the mares if ordered, will be paid to them, but I will not be accountable for accidents of any description.

As a racer or a blood horse, SIR ARCHIE is superior to no horse ever bred or trained in any other country. At New Market and elsewhere he has beaten the following famous horses, Wrangler, Tom Tough, Palafox, Minerva, Callatin, &c. also Gen. Carne's celebrated racer Blank by Citizen, never beaten before since.

The above will appear by reference to a now in my possession from Mr. William Rason, who formerly trained and owned him from which the following is an extract.

I have only to say that in my opinion Sir Archie is the best horse I ever saw, and I well that I never had any thing to do with one that at all his equal, and this I will back for a horse in the world will run against him a half way ground, four mile heats, according to rules of racing, you may consider me five hundred dollars with you on him. He was in condition this fall, and has not run with any that could put him at half speed towards the end of the race. Yours, W. R. JONES

MARES now in foal should be sent before time of foaling, to avoid travelling the cost of young. One dollar will be expected by the owner for each mare. ALLEN J. DAVIS, Halifax, Dec. 1, 1809.

NOTICE.

THE subscriber respectfully informs his friends and the public, that he has lately moved to a new House formerly occupied by Bartholomew Foot, Esq. for the purpose of keeping a select back country provisions, keeping a variety of good liquors, and paying particular attention to travellers and others who may favor him; their custom, he doubts not but he will receive a share of public attention, and at the same time his customers fully satisfied. Z. HARMON, Pittsborough, Jan. 16, 1810.

NOTICE.

THE subscribers having been appointed Trustees of the University of North Carolina, for completing the main building of the University, are determined to avoid any unnecessary delay: It will therefore be expected of any person who is disposed to contract for the whole of the Brick Work, to address their proposals as speedily as possible to the subscribers either at Stagville or Chaple Hill, Orange County. It is estimated that the work now to be done will require four hundred thousand bricks. N. JONES, WALTER ALVES, DUNCAN CAMERON, JOSEPH CALDWELL, Chapel Hill, 2d Feb. 1810.