

Yet some circumstances render it extremely improbable that such an event should happen at all, with regard to the definite time, though it is possible in nature, for the planes of all the Comet's orbits are raised above those of the planets; so that there is but one particular place in the orbit of a comet where its tail can pass over the orbits of the planets; and it is so many chances to one, that a planet happens to be in that part of its orbit at that particular time. But should any of the comets approach so near us as to be more attracted by the earth than the sun, we might indeed, by that means acquire another moon, which would be a change to our advantage, rather than a subject of terror and dismay.

Dr. Halley is of opinion, that the great comet of 1680, appeared near the time of the general deluge, and that probably was the occasion of that catastrophe, which he therefore believes the Almighty caused to happen by a natural cause. If a comet passed near the earth it might undoubtedly raise a very strong tide, the effects of which would be, that it would lay all places under water; and drown the inhabitants so far as it reached. For if so small a body as the moon, at the distance of sixty of the earth's semi diameters, be able to raise a strong tide of twelve or fifteen feet in height; a Comet as big as the earth, and coming very near it, would raise prodigious tide capable of overflowing all that part of the earth which was nearest to the comet.

But it may be said, this could not drown all places at once, for at the quadratures would be as great an ebb? But it may be answered, that by the earth's rotation, it would pass over all the countries of the world successively, and therefore in the space of twenty four hours, the whole earth would be involved in water and all animals as effectually destroyed as if the water had said one hundred and fifty days, upon the earth, which is the time mentioned by scripture; the natural effect of this would be, that by such a prodigious and rapid motion of this vast body of water round the earth in 24 hours, all trees must be torn up by the roots, and carried along with the current; all buildings demolished, the rocks, hills, and mountains dashed in pieces and torn away; all the product of the sea, fishes, shells, teeth, bones, &c. carried along with the flood, thrown upon the earth, or even the tops of mountains, promiscuously with other bodies; hardly any thing could be found so strong enough to withstand its force. The like vast tide would also be raised in the atmosphere, attended with the most violent commotion of the whole body of air, the consequence whereof would be continual rain. In such a case as this it would be impossible for any ark to live at sea, or the strongest man of war that ever was built.

Those, therefore, who suppose the water to be over all the face of the earth at once, must attribute it to a comet, for it is impossible for a natural cause to produce such an effect. It is also necessary, that this flood of waters should be perfectly free from all storms and tempests; for if Noah's ark came to be tossed about in a raging sea, from its structure and magnitude it must inevitably perish, with all its cargo of animals; and if this was granted, it would still be equally difficult to account for another phenomenon, that is, how shells and marine bodies, should be thrown upon the land or even to the tops of the mountains, by such a still water, and many of them buried deep in the earth; this effect is not at all reconcilable to such a supposition. Therefore, it does not appear, that both these hypotheses can be true—for the calm sea, necessary for preserving the ark, could move none of the shells; and the rough sea, necessary for transporting the shells, would destroy the ark. The reconciling these things is not easy, but we believe it would be a very difficult affair, to make out how such a great concourse of water should be so quiet and still, so clear of winds, storms and tempests, as is here required. Hence we conclude, that the ark and its contents were miraculously preserved from destruction by the power of Omnipotence.

Foreign and Domestic Intelligence.

NEW YORK, October 12.
LATEST FROM LISBON.

By the arrival this afternoon of the Ship Illinois, Taylor, in 35 days from Lisbon, we have received a file of Lisbon Gazettes to the 5th of September, from which we have made the following translations.

LISBON, AUG. 28.

Extract of a despatch from his Excellency Marshal General Lord Wellington to his Excellency Don Miguel Pereira Forjaz, dated at his headquarters, at Fuente Guinaldo, August 21, 1811.

The enemy has made no movement of importance since I transmitted to your excellency my despatch of the 14th inst. In the afternoon of that day, a detachment of the enemy, consisting of near 1900 infantry and cavalry, arrived at Gato, a town situated on the south side of the mountains, that separate Castile from Estramadura, and on the following morning surprized a small picket guard of ours in S. Martinho de Trivelgo, commanded by Lieutenant Wood, of the 11th regiment of Dragoons, who, with ten dragoons, were made prisoners. In the afternoon, the enemy proceeded from that place to Moralejo, and the next morning to Monte Hermoso.

I have not learned that the enemy's troops in the north or south of the Peninsula have made any movements, since I sent to your excellency my former despatch.

SEPTEMBER 4.
Extract of a despatch, from Lord Wellington, dated Fuente Guinaldo, Aug. 24, 1811.

A considerable body of the enemy's troops arrived by forced marches at Valladolid on the 16th or 17th inst. and afterwards turned back towards Rio Seco, from whence I have not yet heard of their having moved.

I have hitherto not heard that the enemy has made any movement in the north of Spain. Gen. Santocildes writes from Astorga, on the 15th, and says that the enemy was still in considerable force in his front. Marmont has left the cantonments, that he occupied with the army under his command, in the valley of the Tago, and advanced his army towards the mountains that separate

Estramadura from Castile; so part of the said army has entered Castile.

The division of the army of Portugal, that was cantoned at Jaraicego and Truxillo, has, as I had heard, obtained some advantages over a small Spanish force, commanded by General Morillo, and the legion of Estramadura, commanded by Col. Downs; these troops had advanced as far as Montanches.

I have no recent intelligence from the south of Spain. Gen. Ballesteros still remained in the county of Nicola, when I last had news from that quarter.

FROM MOBILE.

FORT STODDERT, Aug. 21.

A new Order.—The Commandant of Mobile has received from the Captain-General of Cuba, positive orders not to permit the passage of any powder, troops, or armed vessels past Mobile, belonging to the United States; that should he permit any to pass, it would be considered a disobedience of orders by him, and that he should answer for the same. In a private letter to the Commandant he evinced much displeasure at permission being given to the last powder schooner to pass unmolested.

As this order is positive, we may expect in case an attempt is made to hear of a few shot being exchanged, in fact, his expectations in the minds of some was realized, when the gun vessels appeared off Mobile in 2d of last month, but a council of war was held, and a majority was of opinion, that it was their safest plan to permit the schooner to proceed, then to contest her passage. In this new order it is observed, "that should any vessel having any of the before mentioned articles on board and being conveyed by an armed force, attempt to pass, and a council of war be held, that if one of the officers is for opposing their passing, they shall do so, from which we may calculate that the passage will be warmly contested.

We deem it unnecessary to call the attention of government to this subject, as we claim the free and undisturbed navigation of the Mobile river, and as we expect to see it asserted in a short time, not by proclamations, but by cannon.

In addition to the troops lately sent from Mobile to take possession of Dolpin Island, which is included in the Paezguila parish, we understand that a party will be sent in a few days to take possession of all that tract of country lying between Mobile bay and the Perdido river, which is also included in the parish. As we have once taken possession of it, we cannot for a moment believe, that Governor Claiborne will suffer the Spaniards to exercise any jurisdiction over the same.—*Balt. Whig.*

State:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1811.

FRESHET.

On Monday night last and during the next day there was so great a fall of rain as to swell the neighboring streams to an extent never equaled within the memory of our oldest inhabitants. The mischief done is of distressing magnitude. Mills, mill dams, bridges, &c. have either been swept away or much damaged; and so far as we have information, considerable injury has been done in other respects.

Until the streams fall so as to be fordable, we shall of course remain deprived of mails both from the north and south. In the mean time we shall offer our readers what seems most worthy of notice in the papers already received.

Since the above was in type, the southern stage has effected its arrival. The contractors for the line between this place and Fayetteville, certainly deserve praise for their persevering efforts to insure the regularity of the mails.

The elections in Maryland, for delegates to the General Assembly, have terminated in the choice of 47 democrats and 33 federalists. In New Jersey, likewise, as well as in Vermont, democracy has been triumphant. So dark delusion, like a sickly vapour, jet-run the country, spreading its ease and darkness through the land.

George W. Campbell, Esq. is elected a Senator of the United States for the state of Tennessee to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Jenkin Whitesides, esq.

According to the calculations of Mr. Wood, of Richmond, the comet will have commenced to be visible all night, on the 12th instant.

About the 2d of December, as he supposes, it will cut the Ecliptic in the 25th degree of Aquarius, the sun being then in the 9th deg. of Saghiarius.

Its tail at present extends 14 degrees. Wherefore upon the supposition that the comet's distance from the earth is equal to that of the sun's distance, its tail would extend over 24,730,838 miles.

From the velocity of the Comet still increasing, as likewise its apparent magnitude, it yet continues to approach the earth.

The Superior Court of Law and Equity, for this County, was opened yesterday—His Honor, Judge Lowrie, on the bench. The requisite number to form a Grand Jury, could not be procured. The reason of this deficiency was occasioned by the General sickness which prevails in this part of the State, on which ground the Judge declined making any order for fixing the absentees, of course no business on the law ticket was taken up. Little

Equity business was done, and the Court adjourned the same day.

Wm. W. Jones, Esq. was appointed by the Court, Solicitor pro tem. for the term.

A. M. Hooper, Esq. has been appointed to the office of Clerk of the Superior Court of Law and Equity, for New Hanover County, in the place of John D. Jones, Esq. resigned.—*Wilmington Paper, October 15.*

POST OFFICE ESTABLISHMENT.

New Offices established during September last. Wanesville, N. Carolina; Robert Love, Post Master.

Mearn's Chapel, Nash county, North Carolina; M. Lamb, do.

Colleton, St. George's District, South Carolina; David Riddlesperger, do.

Marrs Bluff, Marion County, South Carolina; Jaques Bishop.

Discontinued.

Arrington's Tavern, North Carolina.

The legislature of Connecticut assembled at New Haven on the 10th inst. Upon a convention of the two houses in the council chamber, after a solemn and sublime address to the Throne of Grace, by the Rev. Dr. Dana, the session was opened by a speech from the governor, in which the following passages are found, on the subject of our

EXTERIOR RELATIONS.

Extract from the Speech of Governor Griswold to the legislature of Connecticut, delivered on the 10th inst.

No important change in the political or commercial relations of the States with foreign nations, appears to have taken place, since the last session of the General Assembly.

The relaxation of the general plan of depredation which has been observed in a few cases, on the part of one of the belligerent powers, has not been attended with a general restoration of American property sequestered in violation of our rights, or any frank and explicit revocation of the decrees, under which the great mass of seizures have been made. The same course of depredation appears also to be continued, and little hope can be entertained, that our rights will be respected in future.

Can we perceive any change in the disposition of the other belligerent power towards the United States. The capture and condemnation of our property by that power appears to increase with the opportunities for executing their unjust orders. As our trade is so extensively plundered by foreign nations, it would have afforded great satisfaction to reflect, that no part of our commercial embarrassments had arisen from the measures of our own government. But we have to regret that the restrictive laws of the Union still remain in force, and without essentially affecting foreign nations are aggravating the evils which their injustice has produced, and are felt with peculiar severity by the commercial and other important interests of this State.

It is however to be presumed that the advocates of that system must before this time, have become satisfied that the measure originated from mistaken views of the public interest, and that the national Legislature will abandon it, at the approaching session of Congress. Intelligent men, however, will perceive that our public concerns require something more, than a repeal of particular obnoxious laws. It has been our misfortune to pursue a policy which has rendered us contemptible in the view of foreign nations, & we are treated as a people, who are ready to submit to every indignity, which interest or caprice may impose upon us. It cannot however be too late to retrieve the national honor; and we ought to expect that our public councils will find, that a manly, impartial and decided course of measures has now become in its nature, such a course as shall satisfy foreign nations, that whilst we desire peace, we have the means and the spirit to repel aggression.

The interests of the United States undoubtedly require a secure and honorable peace; but the only guarantee which ought, or can with safety be relied on for this object, is a sufficient organized force and a spirit to use it with effect when no other honorable means of redress can be resorted to. The extensive resources, aided by the geographical situation of our country, have furnished every necessary means for defending our territory and our commerce, and we are false to ourselves when either is invaded with impunity. To the general government however belongs the care of these important concerns; and it is not for the State authorities to encroach on the prerogatives of the Union. Yet it is important for every State to know and to feel the condition of our general concerns, and to be prepared to co-operate with the nation in those measures which the public honour and safety demand.

"R. GRISWOLD"

A remarkable parallel, says the Baltimore Federal Republican, exists between the demand made last winter by poor Madison's orders, upon the garrison at Mobile to surrender to the presidential forces, and the perfectly polite acquiescence in a determined refusal—and the demand made by order of the sagacious Wilhelmus Kieft, governor of New York, upon the Marylanders, to evacuate their settlement upon the Schuykill. It appears from the valuable and true history of New York, lately published by Mr. Knickerbocker, that in the year 1642, in a moment of great wrath governor Kieft prepared an armament, consisting of two sloops and thirty men, destined to remove the intruders, and placed it under the command of Mynheer Jan Jansen Von Appledam, as admiral and commander in chief of the forces. For saith the historian, at this time our infant colony was in that enviable state, so much coveted by ambitious nations, that is to say, the government had a vast extent of territory; part of which it enjoyed, and the greater part of which it had continually to quarrel about.

Admiral Jan Jansen Appledam was a man of great metal and prowess, and no way dismayed at the character of the enemy, who was represented as a gigantic, gunpowder race of men, who lived upon hoe cakes and bacon, drank mist juleps and brandy toddy, and were exceedingly expert at boxing, biting, gouging, tar and feathering, and a variety of other accomplishments, which they had borrowed from their cousins german and prototypes, the Virginians, to whom they have every borne considerable resemblance. Notwithstanding all those alarming representations, the admiral entered the Schuykill most undauntedly with his fleet, and arrived without disaster or opposition, at the place of destination.

"Here he attacked the enemy in a vigorous speech in Low Dutch, which the wary Kieft had previously put in his pocket; wherein he courageously commenced by calling them a pack of lazy, loitering, dram drinking, cock fighting, horse racing, slave driving, tavern haunting, sabbath breaking, mulatto-breeding upstarts; and concluded by ordering them to evacuate the country immediately—to which they most ironically replied in plain English (as it was very natural for Swedes) 'they'd see him d—d first.'

"Now this was a reply for which neither Jan Jansen Appledam nor Wilhelmus Kieft made any calculation; and finding himself totally unprepared to answer so terrible a rebuff with suitable hospitality, he concluded like a most worthy admiral of a modern English expedition, (that his wisest course was to return home and report progress.) He accordingly sailed back to New Amsterdams, where he was received with great honors, and considered as a pattern for all commanders; having achieved a most hazardous enterprise at a trifling expense of treasure, and without losing a single man to the state! He was unanimously called the deliverer of his country (an appellation usually bestowed on all great men) his 2 sloops having done their duty were laid up (or dry docked) in a cove, now called the Albany Basin, where they quietly rotted in the mud; and to immortalize his name, they erected, by subscription, a magnificent shingle monument on the top of Platten Barrack Hill, which lasted three whole years; when it fell to pieces and was burnt for firewood.

The state of Delaware, at the late election, has again proved to be firmly federal.

Yesterday, says an Albany paper, several wagon loads of British goods, from Canada, belonging to a mercantile house in this city, were seized in State street, having been smuggled into this state in violation of the non-intercourse law. This is as it should be; the laws ought to be rigidly enforced, and we cannot but hope that a similar fate may await every load of British goods that crosses our boundary line.

"It is an ill wind that blows nobody good."

The loss of one, is another's gain. The merchant gains by peace, the privateer by war; one farmer by wet seasons, another by dryer; one ship's crew by an east wind, another by a western gale. The destruction of trade in one place, increases the trade of another. Sickness helps the doctor, and litigation the lawyer. Scarcity of money makes the monied men still richer. A tornado, or a fire, by which many families are ruined, may, with some others, be the occasion of a better sale of their lumber, or a higher price of their labour.

So with respect to the great and violent changes in our country, effected by the anti commercial system; whilst most are the poorer for them, some, a happy few, are the richer. This system impoverishes not only the merchant, generally speaking, but also the farmers and mechanics. We presume to say, there never before was a time when there were so many insolvent debtors in this country, as at present. We learn from the papers, that, in the state of New York, about seventeen hundred persons have been declared insolvent, within a very few months past; and the list is still increasing every week. Nor is the state of New York singular in this respect, except with regard to its bankrupt law. Were the legislatures of all the other states to pass the same kind of bankrupt law, as that state has done, each (with one or two exceptions perhaps) would probably have as many petitioning insolvents, according to relative numbers, as New York; and some perhaps a much larger proportion.

But there are some men who perform the voyage of life to better advantage to themselves, for this general wreck and ruin. It is a fine time for the placeman and pensioner, who have each their several thousand dollars a year. As coadjutors in the present destructive system of policy, they bind heavy burdens, and grievous to be borne, and lay them on mens' shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. No part of these heavy burdens, no not so much as the weight of a feather, falls upon their own shoulders. No wonder they are in good spirits. The ship is wrecked: no matter, they spring from the wreck. Their party remains strong, their offices are secure, and they can lay out the emoluments of their offices to better advantage in these hard times, by making "other mens' necessities their own opportunities."

So again, it is a fine harvest-season for men who are very rich in ready money. If they have pluck enough to take every advantage of the necessities and distresses of their neighbours, they may increase their estates, at least fifty per cent. a year. In short, there never before was a period in this country, so favourable for establishing a monied aristocracy.

Men who are reaping a golden harvest from these times, are full of courage themselves, and would fain animate the ragged and the hungry, to ten to steadfast perseverance under their present conditions. "Come on, brave boys; one pull more and the day is ours. Another embargo, provided we stick to it long enough, will bring Old England upon her marrow bones."—It is most likely, however, that the bulk of the people, already half ruined, are pretty near the finching point.

"Once upon a time" (says a fable) "a giant and a dwarf were friends, and kept together. They made a bargain that they never would forsake each other, but go seek adventures. The first battle they fought was with two Saracens, and the dwarf