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Literature, Science, Arts, &c.

FROM NILES' REGISTER.

REVOLUTIONARY SPEECHES, ORATIONS, &c.

In pursuance of the plan to collect and publish, and thereby preserve, a body of Revolutionary speeches and orations, I addressed a respectful letter to the venerable President Adams, requesting his aid in the undertaking—the following are extracts from his reply:

"Of all the speeches made in Congress, from 1774 to 1777, inclusive of both years, not one sentence remains, except a few periods of Dr. Witherspoon, printed in his works."

"In the Vatican there is a picture of the creation by Raphael. A man is represented darting into chaos, and buffeting its heterogeneous elements with his fists, and kicking the Molecules Organiques, its primordial corpus 'cules' into the sublime and beautiful order of this universe."

"My papers are an infinitesimal miniature of Raphael's chief d'uvre. But I have neither clerk, secretary or amanuensis, to leap in; and my eyes are too blind and my hands too paralytic, to jump in myself."

"Nana buried his papers, and ordered them to be concealed for five hundred years. At the expiration of that period, the senate ordered them to be burned, as dangerous to religion. That is, to the religion of the Phenicians, Persians, Egyptians, Indians and Scythians, converted by the Greeks into pretty, elegant, laughable fables."

"It is a serious question, whether I ought to bury my papers or burn them—You would not publish them, and if you should, they would ruin the sale of your Register."

"In plain English and in a few words, Mr. Niles, I consider the true history of the American revolution, and of the establishment of our present constitution, as lost forever. And nothing but misrepresentations, or partial accounts of it, ever will be recovered."

"I am, sir, with thanks for your communication, your very humble servant, JOHN ADAMS."

"Quincy, Jan. 2d, 1817."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EVENING POST. Philadelphia, Jan. 14, 1847.

Dear Sir—I have received an interesting letter from Mr. Jefferson, and as his opinion of the Repository accords with yours, and as you have been kind enough to give your aid in the promotion of the work, I shall be happy, if you may see proper, that you would give it an insertion in the Evening Post.

With great respect and esteem, I am, dear sir, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH DELAPLAINE.

Monticello, Dec. 25, 1816.

Dear Sir—On my return from Bedford, after an absence of seven weeks, I found here your favor of the 23d of November, with a copy of the first number of your Repository. But I found also an immense accumulation of letters received during my absence, some of which claimed my first attentions. You know my aversion to the drudgery of the writing table. The great affliction of my present life is a too oppressive correspondence. It is wearing me down in body and mind; and leaves me scarcely a moment to attend to my affairs, or to indulge in the luxury of reading and reflection, which would soothe, as a balm, the decaying powers of life. Yet I take up my pen with cheerfulness, to express the satisfaction with which I have read and examined this first number of your work. I think it well executed both in manner and matter. A judicious selection of facts, related in an elevated style, and enlivened by a rich fancy, carries the reader on with the ardor of his author, while the fine traces of the graver embody in his mind, the figure with the facts, of the relation. I have understood that the seal of the narrative has been censured, by some, as too short, by others, as too long. I think, myself, it is well proportioned to the object of the work. Were I to indulge a criticism, it would be on the omission to quote authorities for the lives and portraits of Columbus and Vesputius. Their age was so remote from our own time and place, that whatever can be learnt of them now, must be from public sources with which the reader might wish to be acquainted. In recent histories, authorities are not required, because their publication is itself an appeal to living witnesses of their truth. With my wishes that you may receive a just remuneration for the labours and expenses of this interesting publication, accept the assurances of my esteem and respect.

THOMAS JEFFERSON.

Joseph Delaplain, Esq.

We are informed that President Dwight had recently revised his celebrated System of Theology, his Travels through New-Eng and, and others of his most important manuscripts: and

has left them in a state of readiness for the Press. The publication of these works, we have no doubt, will exalt the character of American Literature, and carry the memory of their Author to generations yet unborn, as one of the brightest luminaries of the present age. Clarum et venerabile nomen will ever be written in shining characters the name of DWIGHT, on the list of American Worthies.

FROM THE MERCHANTILE ADVERTISER.

Description of an improvement in constructing the Pistons of Pumps and Engines, by Peter A. Browne, Esq.; in a letter to Dr. Samuel L. Mitchell, from Professor James Cutbush of Philadelphia, dated January 11, 1847.

"Dear Sir—Discoveries and improvements, whether in Science, the Arts, or Manufactures, made known to the public through a common channel, and sanctioned by men truly eminent, must necessarily call the attention of a discerning public, in order to appreciate their value and importance. The following account of a new application of the wedge and spring in mechanics, and the discovery of a mode of constructing pistons for all kinds of forcing and lifting pumps, air pumps, steam engines, &c. without packing, as it is termed, which is the discovery of PETER A. BROWNE, Esq. an eminent attorney at our bar, may be highly interesting to the artists of your city, and useful to the country at large. I speak of the practical utility of the discovery, by which, as the sure criterion of merit, as it respects utility, invention should be tested. Of this I am satisfied, having witnessed the operation of the piston not only in the forcing, but in the air pump."

"When the workmanship is perfect, in the cylinder and piston, it will always produce a vacuum. This is evident from the ebullition of ether, and other experiments in vacuo. Mr. ROSE, surgeon's instrument maker, a workman of considerable merit, is now adapting this piston to the air pump of the cupping instrument, which promises advantages decidedly in its favor. The model in the possession of Mr. Browne, the patentee, was made by Mr. Lukens with his usual neatness and accuracy."

"The drawing herewith forwarded, with which Mr. Browne furnished me at my request, exhibits the formation of the piston: but, in order to give a general explanation, we shall notice briefly its construction."

"The foot of the piston-rod gradually widens at the bottom, and fastens into and fits in a flat circular plate, which constitutes the bottom of the piston.—The rod is furnished with a shoulder, a small distance from the bottom. There is an upper circular plate of the same size as the under, which rests upon this shoulder, and is confined in its place by a nut. Between these plates are three segments or pieces of the same metal, which, when placed together, form a circle in size to the cylinder; and between these are three triangular wedges, which act equally upon the segments of the circle. Those wedges rest against a metallic spring, which is circular in form, and of sufficient power and elasticity.—This spring, by its expansion, forces the wedges forward; these again act on the three segments, so that a complete contact with the cylinder is produced."

"This piston, therefore, consists of the under and upper plates, the three segments, the three wedges, and the spring. It is obvious that the power of the spring is communicated, or applied equally to the wedges, the spring being in contact with one of the sides of each; and that the wedges, in their turn, act equally and uniformly, as wedges, on the three several segments. The segments then press against the cylinder in every point of contact, which, of course, must be against the whole cylinder, the calibre or bore being true."

"The wedges themselves are formed with great accuracy, and fit the segments when the whole is arranged with mathematical precision. In the operation of the piston we may remark, that any space, however large or minute, which may arise from the enlargement of the circle by the pressure of the spring and wedges, is filled, and the whole rendered air-tight. The segments when put together form an equilateral triangle in the centre, and the wedges, which are inserted, are also equilateral triangles."

"From the idea we have of this piston we may readily perceive its superiority over the common kind; that the defects or imperfections to which those formed with packing are liable, are removed; and that its application may be general to any engine in which the piston is used, however large or small and however simple or compound. Valves have been added by Mr. B. to answer the purpose of the lifting and air-pump."

"I am so well satisfied in opinion with other persons who have examined it, as to its utility, that to do Mr. Browne justice, I consider that he has not only shewn considerable genius and talent, but has rendered an essential advantage by his invention in discovering a permanent and effectual substitute for the common packing and piston, or any appendage thereto."

"Mr. Rose will forward and present to you an Air-Pump on this principle in a few days."

Very respectfully, Sir,

Your friend and obed. servant,

JAMES CUTBUSH.

Samuel L. Mitchell, M. D. Professor.

Fine Arts.

FROM THE NEW-YORK EVENING POST.

Mr. Editor—I beg leave to solicit your attention to an article which appeared in the Ev. Post of the 15th inst. signed "America." It is there stated that the legislature of North-Carolina, with a munificence and public spirit infinitely to their honour, had determined to

erect a monument to the memory of the illustrious Washington; and that, in execution of their noble intentions, they had resolved to employ the first statuary of the age, the celebrated Canova, of Rome. But, says "America," there are "native Americans who are equally capable, and to whom the preference ought to be given."

"Sir, it is believed, that there is not a single native citizen of the United States who has acquired the least distinction as a statuary, exception, perhaps, Mr. Rush of Philadelphia, famous for his finely executed figure-heads for ships; and, as to the broad assertion of "equal capacity," it is pretty generally admitted that Canova excels all his competitors, in a ratio not much less than that in which he is exceeded by his great archetype Phidias; although the art has been cultivated with much success in France and England, and many eminent artists are to be found in both those countries."

"America" is solicited to disprove the truth of these comments, if he can; if he cannot, may he be pleased to remember that overweening conceit and vain-glorious vapouring are not likely to conduce to the honour of the country nor to the interests of the fine arts."

AN ARTIST.

Communication.—It is with great pleasure we see announced the election of Colonel John Trumbull to be president of the American Academy of Arts. The members of that institution have done themselves honor and reflected credit upon their country by their choice. Herefore the presidency has been bestowed on gentlemen high in public estimation, but necessarily ignorant of those particular arts which the Academy wished to cherish. Colonel Trumbull is not only a gentleman distinguished by education, knowledge of the world, and civil and military office, but as one of the first artists in the country."

We have every reason to believe and to hope, that congress will employ col. Trumbull in painting a series of pictures for their halls, commemorative of the great events of our revolution, (in which he himself performed an honorable part,) and of the heroes and statesmen who braved the storm and brought the ship of the republic into port. He alone possesses their portraits, and he alone is capable of giving us such pictures as will preserve the memory of their persons and actions, as examples of their latest posterity.—N. F. Ev. Post.

Political.

FROM THE CHARLESTON TIMS.

Cobbett, as he was in 1808.—We request the attention of this man's admirers to the following abstract from his Annual Register for 1803. Let it be remembered that all Europe was then sympathizing in Napoleon's unprovoked and unprincipled invasion of that unoffending country. Whereupon, thus writes Mr. Cobbett:

"It is, to say the truth, of little consequence how much the Swiss suffer. They have even been a most wicked and mischievous nation. A nest of little Republics in the heart of Europe could have been suffered to exist so long, only by the fatal jealousy of kings. People may repeat the cant of Voltaire, Rousseau, and other Philosophers, respecting the wisdom and virtue of the Swiss;—they may tell us of the independent spirit, the patriotism, the innate love of liberty, of this brave, and inoffensive race;—but for our parts, we do not and can not like them. They have been, and yet are, the trouble-makers of Europe;—their country has always been a receptacle for the libellers of monarchs and monarchies. From those little, miserable, worthless cantons, has issued no small proportion of all the miscreants whose projects of liberty have finally enslaved the world! We hope that Switzerland will not go to augment the power of our enemy; but we would prefer even that, to its remaining an independent Republic; under which name and form it will ever be to Europe what a band of United Irishmen is to a Kingdom!"

This very Cobbett, in a subsequent page of the same volume, reproaches Mr. Fox, with a change of political sentiments in the following terms:

"The wonder is not, how a man can hold up his head, but how can he bear to exist under the proof of such glaring and shameful tergiversation!"

Poor Cobbett!

FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLICAN.

The unexampled dispatch which the collected wisdom of the nation, in Washington assembled, make of public business, reminds us of an anecdote that we once heard of a Maryland planter. This gentleman was extremely kind and indulgent to his slaves; and whenever they offended him would threaten much and do nothing. His slaves taking advantage of his growing good nature, would use their own free will in working upon his plantation and do as little as the urgency of the case required. One day he summoned nine of his slaves to give an account of the work which they had done; they accordingly attended and were thus questioned:—Well Peter, what have you been doing?—Grubbing, sir. John, and what have you been doing?—Grubbing, sir. Andrew, what have you been doing?—Grubbing, sir. Thomas, and what have you been doing?—Grubbing, sir. Dick, what have you been doing?—Grubbing, sir. In short, James, George and William, had all been industriously employed in grubbing. Well Peter, what mattock did you make use of?—I used my own mattock, sir. John, what mattock did you make use of?—I borrowed—

I borrowed Peter's mattock, sir. Andrew, what mattock did you make use of?—I borrowed Peter's mattock, sir. Thomas, what mattock did you make use of?—I borrowed Peter's mattock, sir; and Dick, James, George, and William were found on examination to have borrowed the mattock of Peter. Well Dinah, you are a good girl, and what have you been doing?—I sir, why I have been busily employed the whole day in picking up the grubs.—Surely the great men in Congress can have no objection to a parallel of this kind; they acknowledge themselves the servants of the people—nay, they say more: they declare themselves bound by their instructions, which certainly comes nearer to the definition of a slave than that of an ordinary servant!—Verily, gentlemen, ye have all been grubbing."

Frontier Affairs.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 14.

Four lowly Indians were committed to the prison of this county a few days ago, as horse thieves. It appears they were taken up near the river Demoin, with the horses in their possession. It is much feared that our citizens will be driven to hostilities with the lowly and Sacs at their depredations are becoming more frequent and vexatious."

The Cherokee and Osage Indians lately closed their differences by a treaty of peace. The Cherokees complained that their people were robbed and murdered by the Osages, while hunting for their support. The Osages contended, that they only defended their hunting-ground from the aggressions of the Cherokees: that they and other tribes were in the habit of stealing their game; and they would treat every tribe or nation as thieves who committed depredations on their lands: but in order to prevent future acts of severity, they would give the Cherokees a tract of country commencing at or near the Frog Bayou, on the Arkansas, (on the late line drawn between this territory and the Osages;) from thence up the Arkansas to the river Verdigris; thence up the Verdigris to the upper rapids of said river; thence east to the late line about mid distance between Frog Bayou and Fort Osage."

It is said, this treaty of cession to the Cherokees has been sent to the President for his approbation.

The Cherokees are generally cultivators, possessed of large stocks of cattle and negroes, they make handsome cloth and it is thought they will soon abandon the chase. Many of them declare they will become whitemen, and purchase of Congress the lands they live upon."

The Missouri Gazette, of Nov. 20, contains the following article:

"We have repeated accounts from the county of St. Charles, of the intolerable insolence of the Sac Indians. They hunt in the midst of the settlements, and plunder the citizens with impunity. Sometime ago, they deliberately took down the fence of a farmer, and drove into his cornfield a number of their horses. The owner of the plantation had just returned and drove the horses out of his field, and repaired his fence, which he had just finished, when the Indians returned with their horses, again threw down the fence and drove a greater number of horses in to his field, threatening the farmer with instant death if he attempted to interpose again.—How long shall we remain exposed to Indian rapacity?"

CORYDON, JAN. 6.

State of Indiana.—The bill adopting the bank of Vincennes as the State Bank of Indiana, has passed into a law, and subscription books will shortly be opened in the several counties within the state for capital stock to the bank. The legislature, by a joint ballot of both houses, have elected, Messrs. Andrew P. Hay, David Floyd and Stephen Ludlow, directors on the part of the state for said bank."

The general assembly of this state has incorporated a company for the purpose of opening a Canal on the Indiana side of the Falls or Great Rapids of the Ohio. If this should be carried into effect, the advantages will be incalculable, not only to the commercial part of the community, but to every description of citizens, as water-works and manufactories of various descriptions may be attached thereto. It is said the funds of the company are adequate to the completion of the canal, as the company form a chain of capitalists along the Ohio to the mountains, and perhaps over to the Atlantic states."

Diplomacy.—Eight new treaties between the United States and different Indian tribes have been concluded the last year—viz. with the Weas and Kickapoos, Chippewas and Pottawatomies, Winnebagoes, Sacs of Rock River, Sioux of the Leaf, Chickasaws, Cherokees, and Choctaws. These are the kind of people who the British Commissioners at Ghent contended had independent, national rights, and the American Commissioners that they had not."

Phil. American.

GENEVA, (Ontario county,) 2

13th January, 1817.

"The exploring, which the Canal Commissioners caused to be made, during the last season, has resulted in strengthening the conviction that a canal, from Lake Erie to the Hudson, is more practicable, and is likely to be attended with less expense, than has been heretofore supposed. The result has lately led to a general meeting, on the subject of the canal, in this county; and I now beg leave to