

Highland Messenger.

"Life is only to be valued as it is usefully employed."

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MISCELLANEOUS.

[From the National *Eclogia*.]

Virginia.

Mr. Editor—If the annexed is worth the space it will occupy in your columns, perhaps its insertion may afford your readers some amusement. It is an extract from a letter received sometime since from Virginia, and none of your readers who have ever been there will deny that it is a fair picture of the most remarkable Southernisms.

Agreeably to my promise I shall now endeavor to give you a taste of the most noticeable provincialisms that Yankee meets with in this section of the country. I may premise, by the way, that Virginia is to the South what Massachusetts is to the North—the oldest, the most thickly settled, the most literary, the most refined, the best governed; in a word, the pattern State, and the mother State. The provincialisms of Virginia are therefore in a good degree common to the whole South. As, in the Southern States the population is divided into two grand divisions, so in like manner there are two classes of provincialisms there, if indeed the low, vulgar brogue of the negroes deserves any better name than that of *niggerism*.

You will not expect from me in this single sheet a description of all or half the peculiarities of pronunciation, of phraseology, and of Virginia manufactured words which distinguish a native of the Southern part of this Federal Union from those who speak the English (may I call it the Empire language?) in other lands and under other suns. In order to do the thing (as they say here) in the shortest possible manner, I shall introduce these provincialisms in the following imaginary dialogue, which I dare say you will be able to translate into "Down East" with infinite ease:

Col. S. (Shaking hands.) How d'y, Major G.?

Maj. G. Right well, I thank ye. How are you? How's all at home?

S. All right smart, thank ye. We had a powerful rain yesterday. I reckon there'll be a right smart fresh in the river.

G. Mighty apt. It'll hurt my low grounds right smartly if there is. Going to preaching to-morrow?

S. I reckon so. There'll be a heap of people there, I reckon. You, the wind blows right peert.

G. That it does. We've had a right smart chance of wind all this month.

S. Any partridges up down in your low grounds?

G. Heap of 'em. My little pointer here flushed a gang just now there by the branch. (Enter negro.) Who do you belong to?

Negro. (Taking off his hat.) Massa John Smith.

G. Where you going?

Negro. I gwine to carr' letter to Massa Williams.

G. What's your name?

Negro. My name, Cuffee.

S. All well at home, Cuffee?

Cuffee. No, massa. Misus right sick. She done broke her arm yesterday.

S. Broke her arm? How did that happen?

Cuffee. De carriage upset down thar whar de big gully is, by de bridge, 'bout hour by sun yes'day evening.

S. Whar's Jeems? I han't seen him since last Friday night.

G. He's in Richmond or Norfolk, one.

S. Did you get shut of your tobacco before you left Richmond?

G. No, indeed—(splitting)—hem! hem! Niggers going to hire right smartly now, I tell ye, this year—first-rate hands going for nearly a hundred dollars.

S. Well, I haven't but two to hire out; the balance I shall work on my own plantation. Capt. Eastham and Bill Roper came mighty near fighting last court. Capt. Eastham totes pistols for Bill.

G. Well, let 'em fight it out. My wagon got balked coming home; hurt one horse right smartly—had to cut the gear off; broke the tongue of the wagon right in half.

S. Come go by with me to-night.

G. No, thank ye, must go home. Well, good evening to you.

S. Good evening—(shaking hands)—see you again to-morrow.

The above, except the *nigger's* part, is common modes of expression among the first classes of Southern society. Among the lower classes of whites, children and negroes, there are many more less intelligible provincialisms in use; such as—
"Come here all of you." "Whar y' all gwine?" addressed to a single person.—
"Done did it"—done break it, &c.—
"Here it,"—"thar it," for here it is, Bar-

thar, stars, &c., for bear, there, stairs, &c. But I may close this long letter. Good-by. Yours, &c. N.

A brief history of China.

China is an empire of Asia, the most populous and ancient in the world, being 1,300 miles long and 1,030 wide. Population from 300,000,000 to 360,000,000.—The capital is Peking, with 1,100,000 inhabitants; Nankin 1,000,000, and Canton 1,100,000. China produces tea, 50,000,000 pounds of which are annually exported from Canton, the only place which foreigners are allowed to visit. Silk, cotton, rice, gold, silver, and all the necessaries of life, are found in China. The arts and manufactures in many branches are in high perfection, but stationary, as improvements are now prohibited. The Government is a despotic monarchy. Revenue, 2,000,000; army, 800,000 men. The religion is similar to Buddhism, the chief god being Foh. The Chinese inculcate the morals of Confucius, their great philosopher, who was born 550 B. C. The great wall and canal of China are among the mightiest works ever achieved by man. The foreign commerce of China amounts to \$35,000,000 or \$40,000,000 annually, the whole of which is transacted with appointed agents, called "Hong merchants." Foreigners are allowed to live at certain stations or "factories" below Canton. The chief trade is with England. The first American ship reached China in 1784; and now the annual average of United States ships visiting China is 22. The revenue derived from foreign commerce by the Emperor varies from \$4,000,000 to \$6,000,000. According to Mr. Dunn, opium smuggled into China, to the injury of the people, amounted to \$20,000,000 annually for several years past, much of which was paid in specie, which found its way to London. The Chinese language has nearly 40,000 characters or letters. The Chinese are eminent for agriculture, and once every year the Emperor ploughs a piece of land himself in presence of his people.—*Bicknell's Reporter.*

PRINTER'S GRATUITIES.—No class of mechanics, perhaps, suffer more from the predatory and begging habits of individuals, than printers. They work so hard, invest so much, and furnish their papers so low, that people generally seem to think that they actually are worth nothing but to be given away, or taken without leave. Accordingly nothing is more common than for people who have the curiosity to read something that happens to be peculiarly interesting, or who wish a newspaper to send to a friend as a token of remembrance, to run into a printing office, and ask for or take a paper just out of the press, and if the printer should think of taxing him any thing for it, the customer would think himself quite insulted by the niggardness of the printer!—With what other mechanic or business men would people think of taking the same liberties? Go into the grocery and ask the retailer to give you a four pence half penny's worth of tea, coffee, or sugar, unless you are really an object of charity, he probably would think himself the one imposed upon. Or visit a book-store and make off with half a dozen sheets of writing paper, and most likely the proprietor will pursue his customer with a writ of petit larceny. Go into a joiner's shop, and ask him to give you six cents worth of his wares, and you will feel as if you were engaged in a cheap business. And yet people will enter a printing office, and take six cents worth of a printer's labor, and really think it one of that sort of things which should be given away—because the paper is printed. A clean white sheet he would think too valuable to be extracted without pay, and yet it costs a printer thirty-five dollars every week to set up the types that are impressed upon it that makes it worthless. No—no—this is not the way to do business. If you want a paper and will not subscribe for it, as all honorable men do, just step into the office, and lay down a silver bit, say—"Sir, if you please, let me have one of your papers, and take that to pay for it." You will be readily accommodated, and then be seated,—(not looking over the shoulder of the compositor to read his manuscript),—or reposit and read your own paper like a man of good and honorable principles.—*Maine Cultivator.*

TRIBUTE TO FEMALE EXCELLENCE.—The N. O. Crescent City awards high praise to Mrs. Shall, the proprietress of the City Hotel, for her attention and kindness to the sick of that city during the prevalence of the epidemic, not only this but past seasons. It is stated that in 1840, Madame Shall had in her house upwards of 60 yellow fever cases, only one of which proved fatal. This year she had 18 cases, with only one death. And all this is principally attributable under Providence, to her skillful and kind nursing. Besides this, she has visited neighborhoods and sufferers far distant, carrying the balm of health in her hands. This is, indeed, the reality of the poet's vision, who wrote of woman:

"When pain and anguish wing the brow,
A ministering angel thou."

A man full dressed is a man strapped, straightened, backramped; stiffened, stuffed, and wadded, within an inch of immobility. A woman fully dressed, is a woman half naked.

In Sweden they deprive a man of the right to vote, who gets drunk a third time, after having been punished twice for that offence.

[From the Columbia (Penn.) Observer.]

Mississippi State debts.

The result of the late election in Mississippi, shows that the State is as insolvent in morals as in money. State Bonds, authorized and issued according to law, have been repudiated and denied, notwithstanding the moral and legal obligations were as solemn and binding as ever bound man to man. A few Locofoco journals out of Mississippi have been found to rejoice at this abandonment of contract and sacrifice of honor, and to claim the result in that State as a *signal triumph of Democracy* over the merits of the Bond question. If such be the tendency of modern democracy, (as some of its adherents avow in this case) to violate the solemn obligations of contracts by the sacrifice of State honor and State credit, and by a total disregard of law and justice, for the stability of our institutions at home and for the glory and honor of our country abroad, distant, far distant be the day when we or our posterity shall again witness the humiliating spectacle of a State, forming a constituent part of the noblest republic on earth, notoriously prostituting its honor to the god of Mammon, regardless of all obligations, moral or legal.

An examination of the case, will show the following facts:—The Legislature of Mississippi, of 1837, being Locofoco, for banking purposes, passed a bill to authorize the borrowing of \$17,500,000. Of this sum two millions were to be invested in the Planters' Bank. The remaining fifteen and a half millions were to be invested in the "Union Bank of Mississippi," the grand mushroom establishment which the Van Buren Legislature was fabricating, and which has since exploded with such disastrous consequences to the State.

The Constitution of the State requires that all acts, by which the credit of the State is bound, should be passed by a majority of the Legislature, advertised in three newspapers in the State three months prior to the next State election, and approved by a majority of the next Legislature. All these formalities were observed—the act passed the Legislature of 1837, was advertised, and re-passed and deliberately approved by the following session of 1838. The Loan Bill being thus rendered valid, the Legislature proceeded to pass a supplementary act authorizing the Governor to subscribe for fifty thousand shares (five millions) of its stock, to be paid for out of the proceeds of authorized State Bonds. The managers of the Bank were authorized to appoint three Commissioners to sell this five millions of State stock on any terms not under par. These Commissioners sold the stock in Philadelphia, receiving at par, bills on that city, having some time to run. These bills were taken in and paid out by the Bank as cash, and credited to the State as cash.

These are substantially the facts, and Mississippi, (that is the Van Buren portion of the State,) after authorizing this loan of seventeen and a half millions based upon the State credit, now turn around and refuse to redeem one cent of it. There is no doubt that the example of Mississippi, in this instance, will materially affect the credit of the other States abroad. A majority of all State debts is owing to foreigners who now look on us with distrust, and it is said that none of the late national loan will be taken by foreign capitalists, such is their want of confidence even in the General Government! Such are the effects of Locofocoism, practically illustrated.

A MONUMENT WELL DESERVED.—The people of Beauport, near Quebec, in Canada, have lately erected a column of the Corinthian order, forty feet high, in commemoration of the great benefit produced in the parish by the spread of Temperance. This is the first monument of this description which we have heard of, raised to the commemoration of a series of victories of immense consequence. Not those victories in which the warrior appears "in garments rolled in blood," and which are gained by the infliction of great evils on a portion of the human family,—but of victories over vice, of victories in which all are gainers, which aim at the moral salvation of the present generation, and at laying the best foundation for the health and happiness of posterity.

This is certainly a cheering sign that a revolution is going on which is bringing the world right side up.—Most of the monuments which the world have erected, seem to have been insensibly built to commemorate the butcheries of the world's scourges. London has its "fire monument;" Edinburgh has a monument to Nelson, whose victories reddened the waters of Egypt. We are building a monument over the slaughtered bodies of our fathers, who fell at Bunker's Hill; but how different are all these objects from the Temperance reform, which instead of multiplying weeping widows and desolate orphans, dries up their tears, and makes their hearts sing for joy.

ANECDOTE.—As Deacon A—, on an extremely cold morning in January, was riding by the house of his neighbor B—, the latter was chopping wood. The usual salutations were exchanged, the severity of the weather briefly discussed, and the horseman made demonstration of passing on, when his neighbor detained him with—"Don't be in a hurry, deacon. Wouldst you like a glass of good old Jamaica this morning?" "Thank you kindly," said the old gentleman, at the same time beginning to dismount, with all the deliberation becoming a deacon. "I don't care if I do!"

REPARTEE.—At the late election at Shaftsbury, an Irishman made his appearance, and happening to say something in the crowd to the candidates, one of the Tory party exclaimed from the hustings, "Oh Paddy, now go to the devil!" "I am much obliged to yer honor," was Paddy's reply, "sure, ye are the first gentleman that has invited me to yer father's house, since my arrival in England."

DOCUMENTS.

ACCOMPANYING THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

REPORT

Of the Major General of the Army.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, Nov. 23, 1841.

Sir: I have the honor to submit the annual report from this office, followed by remarks on the operations of the army and the suggestions deemed "necessary for improving its condition and efficiency," which have been invited.

1. A tabular view of organization;
2. General return of the army;
3. Position and distribution of troops in the eastern division;
4. Position and distribution of troops in the western division;
5. A tabular exhibit of the whole number of troops enlisted into the army, from October 1, 1840, to September 30, 1841.

Within the year a great and afflictive event has occurred in this office. My distinguished predecessor, Major General Momb, departed this life towards the close of June. Succeeding to the command of the army, I entered upon duty July 5th. The field operations of the troops have been principally confined to the prosecution of the war against the Florida Indians.

In the course of the past winter and spring, Brigadier General Armistead, who commanded the troops in that war, by the aid of a delegation of Seminole chiefs brought back from the West, succeeded in peacefully sending off from Florida about 450 Indians, including their slaves. He at the same time gave effective protection to the citizens of the Territory, and caused many districts occupied by the enemy to be secured, particularly the country east of the St. John's and towards the Everglades.

At his own request, that General was relieved May the 31st, when the conduct of the war devolved on the next in rank then in the field, Colonel Worth, of the 8th infantry.

The Florida army at the time consisted of the 2d regiment of dragoons; nine companies of the 3d regiment of artillery, serving as infantry; together with the 1st, 2d, 3d, 6th, 7th, and 8th regiments of infantry, all much reduced in numbers, leaving an effective force of about 3,500 men.

The season of heat and miasma had already commenced, and partial negotiations were still pending. Finding that the promises of certain chiefs had become plainly deceptive, Colonel Worth resolved to divide his forces into a number of small detachments, and to recommence hostilities every where at once. At the same time measures were taken to guard the frontier inhabitants, and to induce many who had fled for safety to return in confidence. Stimulated by his zeal, energy and abilities, the Florida army, ever ready for any danger or hardship, then spread itself over the country, penetrated many secret haunts never before discovered, destroyed the growing crops and other means of subsistence in those places, and, by constantly harassing the enemy, who never stopped to combat, forced many to surrender for food and safety. Securing their families, the chiefs were turned into missionaries of peace, who found numbers willing to emigrate. Several influential leaders, previously captured and sent off, were brought back, and also employed in like missions. By combining active operations with negotiations of this sort, and without violating one promise made, or one precept of humanity, the most extraordinary results, for the season, have been obtained. A large shipment of emigrants for the West was made in October, besides many prisoners retained till they can be joined by absent members of their families known to be desirous of coming in.

The region of the Everglades, mostly under water, could not have been reached before the return of the cool season. A movement to effect this object, skilfully combined from many points, and including the flotilla of Lieut. McLaughlin, of the Navy, is no doubt now far advanced, and which has every prospect of enveloping a large part, if not the whole, of Sam Jones' band that recently deserted him for emigration. Should the gallant Colonel meet with the success in that quarter which his able combinations merit, there would only be left for him a few fragments of bands to capture.

It is highly gratifying to learn that the troops most actively engaged in the foregoing operations have suffered but very little more from disease than those of the same army left stationary at the forts and depots. Not a company of volunteers or militia was engaged in those operations or belonged to the army of Florida since Col. Worth has been in command, except two companies for the defence of the Georgia frontier, not called for by him.

It is also proper to add that, early in the summer, the 1st infantry was detached from Florida, and now garrisons Jefferson barracks and the forts on the Upper Mississippi; that five troops of the 3d dragoons are now in march for the Red river frontier, and that the nine companies of the 3d artillery may soon be expected to occupy the forts at Pensacola, Mobile point, and the neighborhood of New Orleans.—Colonel Worth having reported that he could dispense with so much of the force that had come under his orders. It was also at his suggestion that the 5th infantry, which had arrived at Jefferson barracks (near St. Louis) from the North, on its way to Florida, was stopped at the former place in Septem-

ber; and he has been joined (the 22d of October) by six companies of the 4th infantry, from Arkansas, and has had, or soon will have, the old regiments remaining with him strengthened by about 800 recruits from the general depot in the harbor of N. York.

From the foregoing details the army of Florida may, by the 15th of next month, be estimated at something less than 3,000 effective men.

In the month of August, Fort Kent, at the mouth of Fish river, and Fort Fairfield, on the Aroostook, were each, for police purposes, occupied by a company of the 1st Artillery, from Houlton, near the eastern frontier of Maine; and another company, of the same regiment, was transferred from the harbor of New York to that of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. In the same month the 2d artillery was brought down from the Niagara and Sackett's harbor to the seaboard; and it now garrisons the works in Newport and New York harbors, Fort Mifflin, (on the Delaware) and Fort Monroe, (Hampton Roads.) This movement induced an extension of the 4th artillery, (stationed on Lake Huron and the Detroit) to Buffalo and Sackett's Harbor; and the retrograde movement of the 5th infantry, from Jefferson barracks, (which now occupies the forts on Lake Huron and the Detroit) has caused the remainder of the 4th artillery to be ordered down, so as to give four companies to Detroit barracks, (at Buffalo) one to Fort Niagara, one to Fort Ontario, (at Oswego) and four to Madison barracks, (Sackett's Harbor.)

It has been said that six companies of the 4th infantry are now in Florida; three remained in the Southwest, to be concentrated on the upper Arkansas on the arrival on the Red river of the five troops of the 2d dragoons now in march from Florida. The remaining company of the 4th infantry took post at the Baton Rouge arsenal in October.

It is confidently believed that sixteen regiments is the *minimum* regular force now absolutely required by the country—not for actual war, but as a standing guard against outbreaks on the part of Indians and hostilities from abroad—sometimes imminent, and always to be looked to with solicitude by those immediately charged with the defence of our soil. Of such force we have but fourteen regiments—two of cavalry, four of artillery, and eight of infantry.—Additions of one regiment to the artillery arm, and of one to that of infantry, are respectfully suggested.

On the supposition of this slight augmentation and the termination of the Florida war, the following would be the proposed peace distribution of the army: five regiments (two of cavalry and three of infantry) along the frontiers between the upper Sabine and the great falls of the Mississippi, with a sixth regiment (infantry) held in reserve at Jefferson barracks, near St. Louis, whence it might, by steam, in the seasons of danger, be rapidly carried near to either of those particular borders; five regiments of infantry along the frontiers between the upper Mississippi (or Lake Superior) and Houlton, in Maine; and five regiments of artillery to garrison the forts along the seaboard, including the Gulf of Mexico.

The necessity of the augmentation will be apparent by considering the immense extent of outline to be guarded, and the remoteness of numerous points from any dense population of citizens, the many tribes of Indians recently transplanted from the east to districts just beyond Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, and Iowa; and the number, the cost, and importance of the forts constructed, or about to be constructed, on the seaboard and the Canada frontiers.

Besides the obligation to defend States and Territories against predatory incursions on the part of Indians, accumulated on their borders by the act of Government, there are treaty stipulations to protect some of the transplanted tribes against their new and more savage neighbors beyond them; and it may be added, that the entire removal of the peace garrisons from the permanent forts, during the last five or six years, for the Florida war, has caused serious injuries to those works. The injuries are now undergoing reparation by hired laborers; but if a small garrison, at least, be not maintained in every fort, dilapidation must again speedily ensue.

There are in the Quartermaster's department twenty-eight, and in the Subsistence department four assistants—making thirty-two officers, each with the rank of captain in the staff, and at the same time holding another commission in some regiment of the line, to the exclusion of a captain or a lieutenant. Of those assistants, twenty-one are already captains of companies, from which they are permanently and necessarily detached on staff duties. Their companies, of course, are commanded by lieutenants, who get neither the rank, pay, (proper) nor the emoluments of the absent captains. This is not only unjust to the lieutenants, but, what is worse, the vacant companies suffer greatly in parental care, instruction, and discipline by the frequent and unavoidable changes in their lieutenant commanders; whereas captains, serving with companies, are at once the fathers of their men and the pivots of the line. No movement can be well executed without these officers. Even to supply their places when temporarily absent by reason of wounds, sickness, or occasional indulgences, is always attended with some injury to the service. The evil, therefore, ought not to be aggravated by the statutory provi-

sion which requires that every staff assistant shall also be an officer in a regiment, and, consequently, with the right of promotion in the line, whilst the officers of the latter can only enter the staff at the foot of the list. This partiality gives to the assistant (at least up to a majority) a double chance of promotion, with only a single set of duties.

For the foregoing reasons I beg leave to suggest an amendment of the law, declaring that the present assistant quartermasters and assistant commissaries of subsistence, and all others of the same denominations, who may hereafter be appointed, shall not hold such commissions in the staff and regimental commissions at the same time, but shall immediately relinquish one or the other.

The superior officers of both those branches of the staff are already separated from the regiments of the line; and it was originally intended that the twenty-eight assistant quartermasters should also have been so separated. The *proviso* of the act of July 5, 1838, section 9, was to that effect; but this in a few days unfortunately became changed by a supplemental act.

The present inequality of pay between the officers of the same grades in the different branches of the common service is highly unjust, and a source of much uncomfortable feeling. The dragoon and staff officers, including those of the engineers, topographical engineers, and ordnance, have all, under the name of *cavalry pay*, received the higher rates over the artillery and infantry officers since July 5, 1838.—Several attempts have been made in Congress to do justice to the officers of the latter arms, but, as yet, without success. To favor an end so entirely equitable, I beg leave to suggest that a near approximation might be attained by granting to the artillery and infantry officers one additional ration *per diem* each, for every four instead of five years' service—the provision of law now applicable to all army officers other than the generals. Two rations *per diem* for every seven years' service would, after a few terms, effect an exact equalization between the parties, and at the end of his thirtieth year the accumulation might be made to coalesce with every officer throughout the army.

I beg leave to recall attention to two subjects of great interest, which were presented on the Department by my predecessor in his annual reports of 1839 and 1840. 1. To a system, not of pensions, but of *retired pay*, presented with full details in the second of those reports; and, 2. To some provision of law in favor of widows and orphans of regular officers who have died or may die in consequence of wounds received or diseases contracted in service, there being such provision already made in behalf of the widows and orphans of navy, volunteer, and militia officers, dying under the same circumstances. Indeed, the whole subject of army pensions to widows and orphans, and to disabled officers, requires equitable revision.

A bill for the establishment of an *army asylum* was reported at the last regular session of Congress, with every prospect of success, except the then want of time. A review of the provisions of this bill cannot, I think, fail to secure to it a favorable consideration in every quarter.

I have the honor to remain, sir, with high respect, your most obedient servant,
WINFIELD SCOTT.

To the Hon. JOHN C. SPENCER, Sec. War.

INTERESTING ASTRONOMICAL FACTS.—The quantity of solar light received at the planet Uranus, is 360 times less than that of the earth.

To an inhabitant of Mercury the sun appears seven times larger than it does to us.

If the degree of heat upon the different planets is in proportion to their distance from the Sun, the average temperature of Mercury will be 333 degrees, 121 degrees above boiling water; that of Uranus, 122 degrees below the freezing point.

Mercury's density is equal to that of lead, being the densest planet in the system; Saturn the rarest, has very nearly the density of cork.

It would take Uranus nearly fifteen years to fall to the sun, if left to the force of gravity alone. Schroeter estimated a mountain upon Venus to be nearly 22 miles in height.

A locomotive, moving without intermission at the rate of 30 miles per hour, would be 542 years in traversing the distance between our Earth and the Sun.

Mercury's rate of motion in its orbit, is 30 miles per second, a velocity two hundred times greater than that of a cannon ball, when it leaves the mouth of a cannon.

A body that weighs one pound upon the earth, would weigh twenty-seven and a half pounds if transported to the Sun; and an ordinary sized man would there weigh four thousand pounds.

Had a steam carriage set out from our earth, at its creation, moving at the rate 30 miles per hour, it would still require three seven hundred years to reach the orbit of Uranus. Were the Sun's centre placed over the earth, it would entirely fill the moon's orbit and extend 200,000 miles beyond it, in every direction. The Sun is five hundred and forty-five times larger than all the planetary bodies belonging to the solar system, taken together.

To an inhabitant upon the Moon, the earth appears thirteen times larger than the Moon does to us.

The distance of the fixed stars cannot be so small as 19,200,000,000 of miles. It must have taken the light of some of the stars a thousand years to reach the earth.

It is stated in Galiguan's (Paris) *Messenger*, that it is contrary to law, in France, to take even a pitcher of water from the sea, lest it should be evaporated, for the sake of gaining an ounce of salt, and avoiding the payment of duty. The Sentinel des Pyrenees informs us, that a servant who was taking a pail of water from the sea, at Briarrits, a few days ago, for a bath for a child who was ill, was perceived by a custom-house officer, who instantly compelled her to throw it back, and return with the empty pail.