

**OUR PORT.**  
The following is a copy of a letter, addressed by Commodore Rodgers to the Secretary of the Navy, in New Jersey. It will be found interesting as a satisfactory explanation of the motives and views of the Commodore in expatriating himself from his native country, and entering a foreign service.

Washington, Feb. 19th, 1825.  
My DEAR SIR: I have been prevented by a variety of circumstances from replying to your highly esteemed favor of the 12th, until this moment.  
Be assured, Sir, that the interest you have taken in my concerns, and the wishes and sentiments you express with regard to me, will ever be borne in grateful and pleasing recollection; the more so, as I feel myself forced to become an exile from my country, and from a service, among the officers of which, there is but one who has served as long as myself. Commodore Rodgers was the first Lieutenant, and I was the first Midshipman, who entered the present Navy, and we served together on board the first frigate that was launched.

Should I determine on accepting the command offered me in the Mexican Navy I beg you to be assured that I shall do so under the most thorough conviction, that I should fall in my duty to myself and my country, were I to decline it.  
Resentment for the past (as some have conjectured) will have nothing to do with my determination. It is true I feel I have been dealt harshly with; and it is true, that I am almost every day made to feel that I am not yet restored to the good will and confidence of the Executive. What is past, I can forgive. The evils of the day I can bear, but the utmost dread of the future. I feel that I have nothing to look for from the government during the present administration but contumely and neglect. And seeing that there is no controlling or protecting power, to whom I can look for redress I cannot bear the idea of remaining in a situation, similar to that which I have already experienced from the government.

I have met with much sympathy from my fellow citizens in general, many of whom believe that I am an injured man, and many gentlemen in Congress have assured me that I should receive from that body protection. To this end, an ineffectual call has been made on the executive for information.

I feel grateful for the sympathy of my fellow citizens, and to those in Congress, who wished to protect me, but neither the one nor the other have been able to relieve me for the present, or give me hopes of security for the future. The punishment to which I was sentenced, and which I have borne without murmuring, has passed off without any abatement whatever. The Executive has been influenced neither by the voice of the one, nor the call of the other; but to the last, has manifested a rancour which has been increased by every expression of the good will of others towards me. This feeling, which has been bequeathed from one administration to the other, may remain to my prejudice an heirloom in the government, at least as long as I can feel an interest in this life. And under these circumstances, it would, I conceive, be but a useless waste of my time as well as a voluntary submission to degradation, were I to remain longer in the U. States' Navy, if I can find useful or honorable employment in that of Mexico.

Let those who would reprove me for leaving my country to embark in the service of a foreign nation, reflect that I but pursue my vocation. If I cannot find employment from the government here, where can I look for it in this country? My life has been spent in the navy, I have no other profession, and am too far advanced to learn a new one. The command tendered to me is the most honorable that can be offered. It is the command-in-chief of the Navy of a young and prosperous republic, in amity with the United States, actuated by the same feelings and interests, and struggling as she has done against despotism, for the establishment of free principles. Let those who see disgrace in the act, reflect on the unparalleled honors which they have bestowed, nay, heaped on Lafayette, for doing the same thing. Why should I be disgraced by what was considered so honorable in him. De Kalb, Kosciuszko, Steuben, etc. etc? Why is it more disgraceful in me to accept the invitation of the government of Mexico, than in General Bernard to accept that of the government of the United States? We all acknowledge the value of his services to this country; and I hope and trust Mexico will experience equal benefit from mine, should I accept her offer.

The profession of arms has never been considered dishonorable, and whether I go to learn it or to teach it, malignity only can find cause to censure me.  
I have served my country with fidelity, my country has treated me with more than kindness. She has estimated my poor exertions far beyond their value. I shall ever feel grateful for the interest she has manifested for me, and the praise she has bestowed. It will be a

...to the struggle in separate myself from such a country.  
Until recently, I have had the happiness to pass through my official life with the entire approbation of the government of that country. But I now find myself, after twenty nine years of constant service, under its ban, for doing all in my power to support its honor and interests.

If the only reward of a faithful discharge of duty, of a laudable desire to sustain the "honor and interests" of the country, is degradation, and if there is no power to control the government that inflicts the punishment, then farewell country, farewell friends, farewell to every blessing that this country and this life can afford, if the enjoyment of them is only to be purchased by degradation.  
With sentiments of the highest respect, and with the best wishes for your happiness, I remain your very obedient humble servant.  
DAVID PORTER.  
Hon. M. Dickerson.

**CONGRESS OF PANAMA.**  
Extract of a Speech of Don Manuel Lorenzo de Vidaurte, Minister from Peru, at the opening of the American Congress at Panama on the 22d June, 1826.

Animated with celestial fire, and looking steadily and with reverence to the Author of our Being, difficulties the most appalling shrink into insignificance. The basis of our confederation is firm: Peace with the whole world; respect for European governments, even where their political principles are diametrically opposed to those acknowledged in America; free commerce with all nations, and a diminution of imposts on the trade of such as have acknowledged our independence; religious toleration for such as observe different rites from those established by our constitution. How emphatically are we taught by the blood which fanaticism has spilt, from the time of the Jews to the commencement of the present century, to be compassionate and tolerant to all who travel to the same point by different paths. Let the stranger of whatever mode of faith come hither; he shall be protected and respected, unless his morals, the true standard of religion, be opposed to the system given us by the Messiah. Let him come and instruct us in agriculture and the arts. Let the sad and subject countenance of the poor African, bending under the chains of rapacity and oppression, no longer be seen in these climes; let him be endowed with equal privileges with the white man, whose color he has been taught to regard as a badge of superiority; let him, in learning that he is not inferior to other men, learn to become a rational being.

**PORTUGAL.**  
The brig Elder Brewster has arrived at Boston from Lisbon, having left that place August 18. He reports that the constitution was generally popular; but that between 200 and 300 persons, opposed to it, were confined in the castle, and additions were daily made to the number of those who even spoke unfavorably of it. Still all was quiet.

**PORTUGUESE MINISTRY.**  
Secretary of the Interior—Francisco Manuel Triposo, de Aragao Morajo, formerly member and President of the Cortes.  
Foreign Affairs—Don Francisco de Almeida Portugal.  
Ecclesiastical Affairs and of Justice—Pedro de Mello Breyner, at present Ambassador to Paris.  
Treasury—Baron de Sobral.  
War—John Carlos de Saldanha de Oliveira Daun, now Governor of Oporto.  
Marine and the Colonies—Adm. Ignacio da Costa Quintella.

**INCREASE OF CANAL NAVIGATION.**  
We presume that but a few, even of those who are in the daily habit of seeing boats pass and repass upon our canals, are aware of the constant and rapid increase of business transacted through the medium of these artificial rivers. We have taken the pains to obtain, from a correct source the number of arrivals at this city, and the result is as follows:

In 1823 there arrived	1329 boats.
1824	2687
1825	3326
1826 to 1st September,	4380

It is probable that the arrivals this year will not be far short of Seven Thousand; and there is every prospect that the increase will in future be in the same ratio with the past, until it will become absolutely necessary to make another canal, double the locks, or adopt some other means to facilitate the transportation of the products of the west; which must all concentrate at this point on their way to market. When the Ohio Canal shall have been completed, an immense sum will be added to our canal revenue.  
[Albany (N. York) Daily Adv.]

Our esteemed and accomplished countryman Washington Irving, is at Madrid, where he is engaged upon the life of Columbus, now nearly finished. He thinks it will be his best work.  
N. York Gaz.

**DESTRUCTIVE MISRIFFS.**  
The New (No.) Palladium of Wednesday, gives the following account of the shocking occurrence which lately happened at the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

On Monday night, the 27th August, a most melancholy and heartrending catastrophe occurred in Coon county, (so called) of the White Mountain. The particulars of the shocking occurrence are, as near as we can ascertain them, as follows: A sudden and powerful fall of rain on the day previous, occasioned an overwhelming and appalling avalanche or slip from the Mountain, into Squam River, which carried devastation and death in its course. On the night above-mentioned, at about twelve o'clock, the family of Captain Samuel Wiley, consisting of himself, his wife, five small children, and two hired men, James Allen and Nickerson, were alarmed by the boisterous elements, and rushed out of their house to save themselves from its ruins, in case it should be swept away; but, alas! they were all carried down and crushed to death by the mass of sliding earth, rocks, timber, &c. The bodies (says a letter of the 3d instant) of a gentleman (the place) of Mr. and Mrs. Wiley, and Allen, were found on Thursday afternoon, about two o'clock, seventy or eighty rods from below the house, amidst a mass of water, mud, wood, and stones, mangled in a most shocking manner—too horrid to describe; particularly Allen, who, it appears from the situation in which he was found, was endeavouring to save the life of Mrs. Wiley, as they were but a few feet apart. Neither the bodies of the children, or that of Nickerson had been found on Friday night last, and little hope was entertained of their ever being found, as many of the inhabitants of the neighborhood had used their utmost exertions for that purpose.

**A GREAT BRAGGART!**  
A shoemaker in Norfolk, Virginia, publishes the following challenge in the papers of that borough:—I do hereby certify, that I can make a better pair of shoes than do the shoemakers in Norfolk can show, white or black. I will bet twenty dollars—let every man or boss come to my house in Bank street, next Saturday, and compare them. Let all the bosses send a pair of shoes each, for if I lose my bet, take my \$20, and all the rest draw the money, but if I gain I shall have all. All such as will not venture shall be posted as cowards and misers.

Note.—The shoes shall be made without a peg, tack or nail, when finished; also no rasp, gaffer or bone, nor varnish touch them. Let all be decided at 12 o'clock. At the same time I shall show a Wonderful Mystery, and demonstrate it, that was never declared in this world. I hope all mechanics and merchants, gentle and simple, will come. The most noble, cultivated, slight, will cost them but 12 cents each. Tickets will be given out or sold from six in the morning till 12 o'clock, at my house in Bank street.

**Vermont.**—In an action lately tried at Montpelier, brought by Anne Lyman against David Hatch, for breach of promise of marriage, a verdict was given for the plaintiff of \$740 damages. The defendant has claimed a review. The cause had excited great interest from the standing of the parties, and the circumstances of the case, and a great number of spectators of both sexes were present at the trial.

**Indiana.**—Since the treaty with the Indians of 1818, which secured to the United States most of their territory south of the Wabash, twenty-six new counties have been formed in Indiana, and a small part of the land ceded now contains 50,000 inhabitants. The Indians who made the treaty are a thousand miles distant—far up the Arkansas. Such revolutions are not uncommon in our country in the space of five or six years; and the progress of them is much accelerated, by the cheerful assistance which one backwoodsman renders to another, in building cabins, and performing other services indispensable to a reasonable share of comfort. A house is often built, fitted up, and inhabited in the course of a day or two.

**Alabama.**—A bilious remittent and intermittent fever has made great ravages in Montgomery and its vicinity, carrying off a great many citizens during the last two months. The fever was abating at the latest accounts. The town itself is very healthfully situated, but many persons, in a moment of alarm, removed into the country, and fell victims to the disorder.

**Large Churches.**—Rutgers street church, N. York, has 1025 communicants; 1st church, Northern Liberties, Philadelphia, 900; Brick Church, New York, 853; 2d church, Philadelphia, 620; 1st church, Elizabethtown, N. J. 632; Orange, N. J. 596; Morristown, N. J. 535; Carlisle, Pa. 522; Troy, N. Y. 503. These are the only Presbyterian churches in the U. States that contain more than 500 members each.

**THE COLD PLAGUE.**  
The New Orleans Mercantile Advertiser says, that a letter was received there, from Fort Adams, stating that the country in that neighborhood is very sickly. The prevailing disease was called the 'Cold Plague,' and carried people off after an illness of 48 hours.

A young man named Brady has been executed in Kentucky for a murder committed in the Penitentiary where he was confined for a limited period—he preferred execution, he said, to serving out his remaining three years of confinement.

A public dinner was given to the Hon. John C. Calhoun by the citizens of Pendleton district, on the 7th inst. at which Gen. Francis K. Huger presided, assisted by Jesse P. Lewis and Enoch B. Benson, Esqrs. On being toasted, Mr. Calhoun addressed the company, principally in defence of his construction of the powers of the Vice President as President of the Senate, and concluded by offering the following sentiment:  
"The People of the United States—the depository of the most precious of all rights, that of self-government; may they by their wisdom and virtue ever prove themselves worthy of the sacred trust."

It is stated, in the Northern papers, that Brower the Sculptor, is preparing for exhibition a National Gallery, containing the portrait busts of 73, and full length statues of three eminent Americans. Among them are busts of Washington; La Fayette; Hamilton; Jefferson; Charles Carroll; Adams; Madison, &c. comprising many distinguished public men of the present day. Such a collection would be a splendid and invaluable acquisition to any city.

The New York papers announce the death of William Bayard, one of the oldest and most distinguished merchants of that city, and for a long time President of its Chamber of Commerce.

The member of the Bonaparte family who has made application to be allowed to reside in Holland, is supposed to be Louis, and not Joseph Bonaparte.

The Criminal Court held and adjourned session yesterday. The Grand Jury retired about 11 o'clock under a pointed and impressive charge from Judge Turner, and in the course of the morning, found a "true bill" of indictment for murder against Z. B. Canonge, for killing T. Preval in a duel.—New Orleans paper, of the 8th ult.

**Drunkennes.**—A Mons. Loiseau, of New Orleans, is said to be successfully engaged in curing drunkards, and restoring them to society and their friends. A paper of that city says—he has radically cured five white adults, four colored, and fifteen slaves. Among the number were one or two whom drinking had made mad. Mr. L. had 13 patients on his hands, Aug. 5, a part of whom it would take three weeks to cure; others might be discharged in 10 days.

**Lightning.**—A Paris paper asserts that cows and bulls are always struck by lightning, when it strikes a tree under which they have sought refuge; but if goats happen to be at the foot of a tree, they always take to flight some moments before the stroke comes.

It is said that cows have been sold in some parts of Washington county, N. Y. from three to five dollars; the drought and grasshoppers having destroyed the grass, &c.

A Miss Miller, a young lady of twenty, said to be from Massachusetts, has been preaching sermons in Maryland. May she do much good in her clerical vocation.

Mr. Robertsen made a grand ascent in a balloon, with lights attached, from the city of New York, on the 29th ult. between 9 and 10 o'clock, at night, in the presence of 15 or 20,000 people. He landed safely in about an hour.

We are sorry to learn, from the American Sentinel, that Joseph Hemphill has resigned the seat which he has so long and with so much respectability filled, as a Representative in Congress from the State of Pennsylvania. Act. Int.

By an arrival at this port, we learn that fifty-two negroes and one white man, who had been condemned as conspirators in the late alarming insurrection at Porto Rico, were to have been executed; and that the Governor of the Island had passed through Ponce on his way to the place of execution. Boston Patriot.

**Jefferson Subscription.**—The Richmond Compiler says, from a rough estimate made of the amount of the subscriptions raised for Mr. Jefferson, within a fortnight, the total was about \$20,000, to wit—in New York, about \$8,000; in Philadelphia, about \$6,000; in Baltimore, a little more than \$2,000; and all the rest at about \$4,000.

**SALISBURY.**  
OCTOBER 15, 1826.  
A late Pennsylvania paper says that some are so plentiful in that state, this season, that they were selling at Pitsburg for 21 cents (the bushel) 61 cents would not pay for freighting, with us. The same paper mentions, apparently with an expectation of encouraging the farmers, that the price in that part of the state was much better; oats readily selling as high as 22 and 23 cents!

We will take this occasion to repeat, what, during the season, we have more than once mentioned, that the oats crop in this section of country, was almost entirely cut off by the drought. We may with safety say, that the seed sown last spring, has not much more than been returned. Abundance of corn can be had, delivered to town, at 20 cents per bushel, while we have to give 40 cents for oats, and little to be had at that price.

We learn, that on Friday night, the 29th ult. two barns were burnt, in the western part of Rowan county, about 15 miles from this place, one the property of Mr. Jas. Graham, the other of Mr. Wm. Cowan. The barns were less than a mile apart; were large, and filled with grain and hay; their value was at least ten or twelve hundred dollars. From the coincidence of both being burnt on the same night, taken in connexion with other circumstances, the conclusion is inevitable that they must have been set on fire, either by some malicious negro, or depraved and wicked white man, as reckless of the penalties of the law, as of all the common charities of civilized life.

**NEW-JERSEY.**  
This state sends five Representatives to Congress, and elects them by general ticket. The convention of delegates, this year, from the different counties in the state, for the nomination of candidates for members in the 20th Congress, assembled in Trenton, on the 20th ult. It is said the friends of Gen. Jackson had a considerable majority; the friends of the administration, after a good deal of squabbling, separated from the others; and each party nominated five candidates of their own liking. The administration ticket has on it four DOCTORS, out of the five candidates: From this circumstance, the Jacksonites say their opponents must be very sick of their prospects. There seems to have been great confusion and disorder in the Convention, hence the reason of their dividing, and each party organizing its own meeting. As there are now two distinct sets of candidates before the people of that State, one a "Jackson," the other an "Adams" ticket, as they are there termed, a fair opportunity will be afforded of testing the real strength of each party. This intense interest in the election of their members of Congress, appears to have been elicited by the anxiety of each party to get a majority of members of their own kidney returned to the 20th Congress, with a view of controlling the vote of the state in the next Presidential election, in the event of its again going into the House of Representatives.

**"Every man his own" Executioner.**  
The Montreal Courant gives the following remarkable account of a man's accidentally cutting off his own head:  
We are informed that one day last week, a Canadian man at L'Assomption was mowing hay near the river side, when he saw a very large fish near the water's edge. He made a blow at it with his scythe, (which was just whetted) and raising it above his head, it appears the handle turned, and coming in contact with his person, it severed his head from his body.

[The above, we suspect, is a new version of an old story, which we remember to have heard in the days of our boyhood. The old version of the story, as well as our memory serves us, ran thus: A mower having finished his day's task, was wending his way home through the meadow; when his attention was suddenly directed, by an unusual noise, to a hole in the earth; on looking into which, he saw two musk-rats engaged in combat; he instantly made a thrust at them with the end of the scythe handle, without, at the moment, reflecting that the blade was directly over his neck—the consequence was, that he cut his own head off! And, as the story goes, those who first discovered him, found that he had also killed one of the musk-rats: thus killing, not "two birds with one stone," but, "two animals at one stroke of his scythe!"]

[EDITH CAROLINE.]  
We have received a communication, entitled a "Public Manifesto," and signed by "Will. Simeson;" the object of which, as near as we can guess at it, (for there is so much ratiocination and bombast in the style of the piece, that it would puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer to make any sense of it without putting his guessing faculties into severe exercise) is to induce public spirited individuals to subscribe towards a fund, to be applied, under the direction of this Mr. "Will. Simeson," when a sufficient amount shall have been raised, to "the rendering navigable the Narrows of the Yackin." This, after searching through three pages of manuscript, of which the "Manifesto" is composed, is all we can find that means anything. If any one has a curiosity to search the document, with a view to make other discoveries, they are welcome to do so.