

# THE NORTH-CAROLINA MINERVA.

*Wm. Carlton Jr.*  
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**FROM THE ENGLISH REPERTORY OF ARTS, &c. No. 90.**  
*Memoir of a Method of Painting with milk.* By ANTOINE-ALEXIS CADET-DE-VAUX, Member of the Academical Society of Sciences &c.

*From the Dicade Philosphique, &c.*  
I published, in the "Feuille de Cultivateur," but at a time when the thoughts of every one were absorbed by the public misfortunes, a singular economical process for painting, which the want of materials induced me to substitute instead of painting in distemper.

Take skimmed milk, one pint (or two Paris pints).  
Fresh slaked lime, six ounces.  
Oil of carraway, or linseed, or nut, four ounces.

Spanish white, five pounds.  
Put the lime into a vessel of stoneware, and pour upon it a sufficient quantity of milk to make a smooth mixture; then add the oil by degrees, stirring the mixture with a small wooden spatula; then add the remainder of the milk, and, finally, the Spanish white. Skimmed milk in summer is often curdled, but this is of no consequence to our purpose, as its fluidity is soon restored by its contact with the lime. It is, however, absolutely necessary that it should not be four, for in that case it would form with the lime a kind of calcareous acetite, susceptible of attracting moisture.

The lime is slaked by plunging it in water, drawing it out, and leaving it to all to pieces in the air.

It is indifferent which of the three oils above mentioned we use; however, for painting white, the oil of carraways is to be preferred as it is colourless. For painting with the ochres the commonest lamp oil may be used.

The oil, when mixed with the milk and lime, disappears, being entirely dissolved by the lime, with which it forms a calcareous soap.

The Spanish white must be crumbled, and gently spread upon the surface of the liquid, which it gradually imbibes, and at last sinks; it must then be stirred with a stick. This paint is coloured like distemper, with charcoal, levigated in water, yellow ochre, &c.

It is used in the same manner as distemper.

The quantity above mentioned is sufficient for painting the first layer of six toises.

One of the properties of my paint, which we may term *milk-distemper*, (*Peinture au lait de tempre*), is, that it will keep for whole months, and requires neither time nor fire, nor even manipulation; in ten minutes we may prepare enough of it to paint a whole house.

One may sleep in a chamber the night after it has been painted.

A single coating is sufficient for places that have already been painted. It is not necessary to lay on two, unless where greasy spots repel the first coating; these should be removed by washing them with strong lime water, or a ley of soap, or scraped off.

New wood requires two coatings. One coating is sufficient for a staircase, passage, or ceiling.

I have since given a far greater degree of solidity to this method of painting, for it has been my aim, not only to substitute it in the place of painting in distemper, but also of oil-paint.

*Refined Milk-painting.*

For work out of doors I add to the proportions of the milk-distemper-painting,  
Slaked lime, . . . 2 ounces.  
Oil . . . . . 2 ounces.  
White Burgundy pitch 2 ounces.

The pitch is to be melted in the

oil by a gentle heat, and added to the smooth mixture of milk and oil. In cold weather the mixture ought to be warmed, to prevent its cooling the pitch too suddenly, and to facilitate its union with the milk of lime. This painting has some analogy with that known by the name of encaustic.

I have employed the resinous milk-paint, for outside window-shutters, that had previously been painted with oil.

There appears to be a mistake respecting the quantity of Milk, occasioned, no doubt, by the translator, two quarts of milk are requisite for the materials mentioned or they may be so far diluted as to be spread conveniently with a Brush.

The cheapness of the articles for this paint, makes it an important object for those people that have large wooden houses and fences.

An experiment has been made with this paint in this country, and it, at present appears to answer perfectly the description of the inventor.

## REFLECTIONS ON THE LATE EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE. (Continued.)

The last event announced by the late arrivals from Europe, which claims peculiar attention on this side of the Atlantic, is the re-establishment of slavery in the French West-Indies, and the revival of the *slave-trade*. Here again we witness that propensity in human nature, to go from one extreme directly to the opposite. But a few years have elapsed since we were marked with surprise the first reformers of France, by decrees passed without reflection, and by *vehemence*, at once emancipating men whose lives had been passed under the yoke of slavery. While we applauded their enthusiasm for liberty—we condemned their want of prudence. Instead of proceeding with caution and liberating the children, born after a certain period—instead of effecting a gradual abolition of slavery among the adults, suddenly—in the phrenzy of revolution, they elevate to all the rights of free citizens, men who had neither the knowledge nor the moral requisite for members of a Republic. From this extreme, we now behold, the French government by a reaction as violent as the first revolutionary mania, passing not only to the restoration of slavery in those islands where the blacks were in the most solemn manner emancipated, but to the renewal of that most infamous traffic in human flesh which the United States have prohibited under the severest penalties; and which the friends of humanity in Great-Britain, under the guidance of a benevolent WILBERFORCE, have long been endeavoring to abolish. In Paris it is now the fashion to approximate as rapidly as possible to the maxims, the habits and manners of the ancient regime. From the establishment of slavery in the islands, intelligent travellers say that the French government will also shortly restore the *corvée* and *gabelle*—two of the most oppressive taxes under the monarchy.—These events, we may reasonably apprehend, ere long, will produce some convulsion in France. Should some band of conspirators, headed by a new Brutus and Cassius, succeed in removing the present Chief Consul, it is highly probable that we shall witness a fresh eruption of that revolutionary volcano, which is now repressed by the genius of Buonaparte.

But should the life of this extraordinary man be preserved for a few years, it is not improbable but that he may purify France from those

monsters, who, in the name of *liberty and equality*, have for so many years past been deluging their country in blood—and thus establish his power on a basis, which all Europe cannot shake.

From the manner in which we have seen the French Revolution, thus terminate, we are led to a review of the many crimes and horrors which have marked its progress; all which are to be traced to the practicable schemes of a few theoretic philosophers, aiming at a visionary liberty, calculated rather for *savage* than *social* man—and rejecting all the restraints of morality and religion—such men as Voltaire, Condorcet and Tom Paine, have been the true authors of all the misery, the bloodshed and anarchy, which have for many years past, disgraced one of the fairest portions of the globe—While the French revolution, like a blazing comet, has been passing in its orbit, and

“with fear of change,  
Perplexing monarchs,”

a kind providence has preserved the estates from those evils to which the unruly passions of many of our citizens would have exposed them, by clothing with the chief executive authority, such men as Washington and Adams; and by disposing the majority of our citizens to approve and support their measures—Dreadful indeed, must have been our situation, had an administration, with the revolutionary, theoretic and narrow sentiments, of the men, now at the head of our affairs, possessed the reins of authority, at the time when Genet, Fouchet and Adet, represented the French republic in America. Had such been the case, we should have made a common cause with our “sister republic”—We should have had the honor to lend her millions, never to be repaid—Our trade would have been annihilated—our agriculture of course would have been crippled; and in place of those immense profits which we have reaped from our neutrality, we should, like Spain and Holland, after sustaining a long and ruinous war, been crucified at the peace of Amiens, to aggrandize the power of France.

But thanks to heaven, at this important crisis, we had men to conduct our national affairs, who were *practical* politicians—who understood and pursued the true interests of their country, unbiassed and unbiased by those false and hollow systems of philosophy and government which are just introduced into America, when they are ridiculed and discarded in Europe. With the recent proof in France, added to the long catalogue in former periods of time, of democratic revolution and anarchy, terminating in military despotism, it is not likely that the good sense of the people of this country will permit them, to err into those excesses and crimes which have marked the French revolution—But the same spirit which governed Frenchmen, still is cherished by many in this country.

In the last session of Congress, we have witnessed the first footsteps of that innovating system, which, in defiance of oaths, of duty and interests, violates the constitution, mutilates the revenue, throws away the means of defence—and to gratify the claims of party-spirit, removes from office men of acknowledged worth, and without stain in their official conduct—when innovations like these are sanctioned by general approbation; when a whole country will permit the tools of party, to supplant men of the first qualifications, in offices where talents and integrity are indispensably necessary; it is then prepared for degradation and slave-

ry—there is then no longer that virtue, which is requisite for a free republic—nor is there any longer that inducement for men of superior worth and endowments, to engage in the service of their country, when the rewards of official honor and confidence are bestowed, not on men of merit, but on *party proficients*.—Soon may this system be changed—soon may we return to the maxims of a Washington, and with them may we experience the happiness and welfare, the honor abroad, and the confidence at home, which characterized the WASHINGTON ADMINISTRATION. [Spectator.]

*From the Gazette of the U. States.*

We trust, that none of our readers have forgotten the representations which have been hatched up by Duane, and republished in most of the Jacobin papers, respecting the 500 dollars which were said to have been paid to Mr. Rofs for “*secret services*.” The following letter from that gentleman to the Editor of the Aurora, contains a full statement of the business, and by it the public will know what was the foundation of all the calumnies which have been heaped upon Mr. Rofs, and the last administration, on account of this transaction.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AURORA.

At the close of the session of Congress which ended on the 1st of June, 1796, the secretary of war placed five hundred dollars in my hands, to be carried to Pittsburg, for the purpose of compensating certain persons engaged in tracing and detecting the progress and mischievous intrigues of emissaries, employed on the western frontier, and among the Indian tribes, by a foreign power, unfriendly to the United States. The money was advanced with the knowledge of the President and all the heads of departments. Before the 1st of August, 1796, I paid over the whole sum to the persons thus engaged. The man principally active in this delicate business, exacted an absolute promise that his name should remain secret. The dependent circumstances and local situation of this man, forbid a disclosure of his name, had no such promise been made. The whole transaction passed with the knowledge of general Wayne, governor St. Clair, and H. H. Brackenridge, Esq. Gen. Wayne, who was charged with the ultimate direction of this business, is no more; gen. St. Clair is ready to confirm the fact; and Judge Brackenridge, who stands very high in the confidence of the present administration, by his letter, dated the 1st instant, authorizes me thus publicly to own, that the sum of five hundred dollars was paid by me at the time, for the purpose, under the promise of secrecy, and with the knowledge of himself, of Gen. Wayne, and governor St. Clair, as I have above stated—that the whole transaction was innocent, prudent, meritorious.—The books of the accountant of the war department shew that the money was advanced at the time I have mentioned, and it cannot be pretended that any other public money was ever paid into my hands.

In the summer of 1799, the accountant wrote to me, that I was charged with the sum of five hundred dollars; and desired that I should send vouchers to close the account. When congress assembled in the December following, I gave his letter to one of the heads of department, all of whom having been in office when the money was advanced, perfectly knew the nature of the service rendered, and the stipulation of secrecy which forbade the filing of receipt in the usual form. I therefore presume it was settled as a secret