

THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE.

Whatever may be the views it entertains of European political affairs, is very attentive to its internal prosperity. Its literary establishments are generous attempts to begin the work of diffusing the necessary knowledge by which the arts must be assisted, in all their progress.—When considered in their first expenses they certainly deserve praise, but when we notice the magnitude of the object in the vast Empire of Russia, the institution of as many youth as are to be found in our superior institution of education, is disproportioned to the necessities of so widely extended a people. Pallas has sufficiently instructed us in the character of the people, and in the progress of knowledge and religious information.—We offer the short chapter of Villiers, upon the influence which the religion of Europe has had upon this people. In referring us to the ideas of government which Peter the Great obtained in Holland and England, he observes, "We must not forget that his genius was awakened, and his mind enlightened by a pupil of the reformation, Le Fort, the Genevan, whom we may regard as indeed the true legislator of Russia. Otherwise, from the times of the reformation, the Russian Empire; in the bosom of the Greek Church, took no part in the dissensions of the Church in the West. But Peter the Great having seen what passed among the protestant princes, undertook, upon his return, a reformation in the Russian Church. He declared himself the head, and refused obedience to the Patriarch of Constantinople, and as the Kings of England had separated from Rome. Perhaps we ought not to overlook the influence which a liberal and protestant education upon the young Princes of Zerbitt, in the Court of Brunswick, had upon the ever memorable reign of this same Prince, under the name of Catharine the second. The toleration of the Czars brought into many distant parts of the vast Empire of Russia, colonies of the christian sects, both from the Southern countries, and from Poland, Germany and Holland. The Anabaptists and Moravian Brethren have many establishments. In Russia also exists sects, which maintain all the enthusiasm and devotion of the ancient recluses. Many from Holland had even established themselves in the first year of Charles II. in flourishing colonies, upon the banks of the Volga, which the lawless Pugatieu soon after exterminated." A policy not dissimilar has had the greatest support from a wish to encourage the arts in the present reign, and the literary institutions as they need, so they refuse no aid from any European nations. We could not refuse to remark, that Villiers in explaining the progress of the reformation, has not forgotten an obvious distinction arising from the different periods of Church History. He has traced in an outline, the influence of manners in Christian Society, in producing the different forms of Government. This ingenious theory will discover the relation which Christianity has to civil policy and the influence society has had upon Christianity, as well as the influence it has had in turn upon civil government. A valuable work of Ziegler, printed at Liepzig, in 1798, has given a corresponding view of the interests of Christianity, and this is very important in judging of true Christianity.

IN FRANCE.

Every thing is done to give splendour to the Court, reputation to the arts, and attraction to the amusements of life.—Masonry, to which was ungenerously attributed design against the social character of man, has already vindicated itself from the aspersions it received, and has recovered its ancient honors. It too well agrees with the manners of France to meet strong prejudices, and it has been too ably defended from false charges by Mounier, to suffer from any political opinions. We have seen the elegant specimens from the press of Typography. And though disappointed in the number of Alphabets, we have not been disappointed in the execution of the work.—The specimens, which exceed 140, have above a third given in other than Roman characters and only about a third of this third are in different characters, so that it is rather a specimen of Languages, than of Alphabets. It is however ingenious in the purpose, and superb in the execution. On the Theatre, the *Etter of Racine* has lately appeared with applause. An observer says, this sacred tragedy, followed with an Oratorio, resembled a Sermon divided by the sons and accompanied with the service of the

Church. The reputation of such a rich composition does not dishonor the taste of the French Theatre.

IN THE BATAVIAN GOVERNMENT.

One circumstance has attracted public notice, that the Grand Pensionary appeared in a dress similar that worn by the Grand Pensioner, John de Witt, 130 years ago. The fate of that great man, has not taken from the force of the last words of his valuable maxims: "It is the duty of a good citizen, to preserve and defend the common freedom of his native country, with his best abilities." It is interesting to our country to know that the publishers of Humboldt and Bonpland's Travels, have received the copy. They announce that he will publish a larger work in another form. He will introduce it with the parts which belong to natural history, & embrace in his travels what belongs more particularly to civil society. The present work will be properly an abridgment, entitled, An abridged relation of a voyage to the Tropics, performed in the interior of the new Continent, during the years from 1799 to 1803. The work will be published in the name of both travellers, but the parts of each will be distinguished.

A statement of the Connecticut Western lands has contributed to explain that part of our history. These lands were granted to Connecticut by Charles II. In the revolution, to some suffering citizens, of that state, lands amounting to 500,000 dollars, or so many acres, were granted, chiefly east of Sandusky bay on Erie. After the peace, part of the same grant were sold to a Connecticut land Company, in Columbiana, to calculate, and the money appropriated for Schools. In 1797, by Wayne's treaty, the Indian title to the lands was ceded to the United States. In 1800, Connecticut ceded the land west of Pennsylvania line to the United States, and obtained a confirmation of their former grants. The lands have now eleven thousand white inhabitants. Thirteen thousand have been obtained for a College.—The lands west of Cahawogo, lately purchased, exceed one million of acres, as did the other purchase, and for them an annuity is to be paid of 125 dollars. For the cession to Connecticut the proprietors were to pay 4 thousand dollars, besides 3 thousand for the Indians, and two thousand annually for six years.

ENGLISH POLITICKS.

The following is an extract of a letter from a gentleman in London, to the Editor of the Philadelphia Gazette, dated June 21st.

"There is an unfortunate misunderstanding between the friends of Mr. Pitt and Lord Sidmouth.—Without being informed of the particulars of this misunderstanding, we have reason to think that the difference between them arises from two points.—The friends of Mr. Pitt are for lenient proceedings against Lord Melville, and with that intent have instructed the Attorney General to throw in questions and obitacles before the House, previous to his Lordship's trial, for a criminal prosecution; while the friends of the opposite party were for impeachment and speedy punishment.—The friends of Lord Sidmouth complain of the severity with which Lord St. Vincent has been censured since he was first Lord of the Admiralty; only because he reformed many abuses and prevented much waste connived at by the Officers in all the king's yards at Plymouth, Portsmouth, &c. and worked a complete reform in them; and contend he was the best First Lord of the Admiralty the Board ever had, and that since his time the Naval department has been and is badly managed. The friends of Mr. Pitt contend that the affairs of the country have been in a retrograde situation ever since the peace of Amiens in 1801; and that that weak and blameable treaty laid the foundation of all Bonaparte's designs for the subjugation of England. The friends of Lord Sidmouth go on complaining (favoured by circumstances lately) that neither the army or military force of the country is so numerous to meet the theatre of invasion, nor the number of ships at sea so formidable against the foe now, as during his administration. The debates of last night, which I shall send you herewith, will show how these charges are supported by comparison and calculation, & the real temper of the parties and the conclusion; but Pitt is a match for them all. Sometimes it is reported this scism is such, that finding it difficult to act, Mr. Pitt will advise his majesty to dissolve the Parliament, or else that he would try to get rid of Lord Sidmouth and his party, and endeavour to form a coalition upon a large scale, which shall include

the leading men in opposition—Mr. Fox, Gray, Sheridan.

"Be these things terminated as they may, I am warranted in a supposition by what I have read lately, taken from the French and German papers, that Bonaparte, seeing he has mounted the ladder of ambition to the topmost mound at Milan, perceives that his dignities will be best secured and maintained by finding out some means whereby a general peace may be brought about; and what is there, after what we have seen, such a genius cannot accomplish? This object however will depend a good deal upon what success the English Ministry will meet with in their present conferences with the powers already mentioned: Bonaparte hints already, through the organs of his ministers and writers at Paris, there are two ways in which a general peace may be effected, either by maintaining the treaty of Amiens, or by admitting the rights and privileges of certain powers not provided for or mentioned in that treaty. This expression, tho' it does not open the door to peace, is putting a hand on the latch."

From the United States Gazette.

To his Excellency THOMAS JEFFERSON, President of the United States of America.

Most honoured and patriotic Sir,

I have for some time past made a discovery, an idea, which, through philanthropy, I wish, for the benefit of mankind in general, and my fellow citizens of the United States in particular, to make public. But in searching for a proper manner in which to lay it before the public so as to attract any degree of consideration to my opinion, I have laboured under an extreme embarrassment on account of my situation in life, I being by occupation what our firm and patriotic governor styles a "challouper," and by political principles I am of that degraded sect called federalists.

But recollecting that your noble and charitable mind, is so far elevated above the vulgar demagogue, (who despises every thing alike which proceeds from a federalist,) that, through your wisdom, Sir, you can pass by the errors of the mind, in weak minded men, and can, like an indulgent father, address us with the balsamic language, "We are all federalists, we are all republicans."

And finding by the late proceedings of the Agricultural Society in France, that you can leap from a field and thence to the plough tail, as it were, when you see that mankind will reap advantage by it; being fully persuaded in my mind, that no communication will be read with contempt, on account of the humble situation of its author, I have been emboldened to come forward, and through the medium of the Gazette of the United States, to submit, with deference, my opinions to your judgment.

My opinion is this, that the chief part of his globe whereon we dwell, is composed of a solid rock of salt; & may be come at by digging a pit of a few hundred feet deep, from any spot on the surface of the earth. If your enlightened mind has hitherto been kept busily employed upon more exalted matters than the formation of the internal parts of the earth, you will with mildness and propriety ask, "How came your contracted brain to form such an opinion?" With due submission, Sir, I answer that some of my reasons are these: The ocean is composed of a salt brine, which can never be reduced to a weaker state, notwithstanding all the excessive rivers that continually empty into it. This would certainly not be the case, did not all the deep part of the ocean wash upon an inexhaustible body of salt. Supposing this to be the case, is it not reasonable to expect, that by digging deep enough we should be as likely to find it at any interior part of a country, as at the bottom of the sea? And when we consider the salt mines of Poland where by digging a pit of several hundred feet deep, they came to the solid rock of salt, and over all the millions of bullocks that have been taken out, they still find no scarcity of the salt, neither do I suppose they will for thousands of years to come. May we not naturally suppose, that by digging in any part of Virginia or Pennsylvania, or any of the less consequential states, to the depth that the Polanders dig, we might strike upon the rock of salt as they have there? If this should found like a paradox we may reflect that five thousand years ago, perhaps if a man had gone into a settlement, where there was no water to be had, without carrying it many miles, and should say to the inhabitants, "dig pits in the ground 15, 20, 30, 60, or 80 feet deep and each family of you can have plenty of excellent water at your door, or at any part of your plantation, he would according to all probability have been looked upon as a madman. Likewise we may of a certainty say that the veins of salt water, which they strike upon, by digging wells in the western parts of the United States, all run through a body of salt in some more elevated ground than the bottom of the wells; and further, the salt which is found upon the surface, in different parts of Louisiana, must be a striking proof that the salt abounds plentifully in the dry land, as in the ocean. But how that small crag of 43 miles thick) of the grand rock of salt remains, or is become clear of the crust of clay which covers it, in all other parts of the land, is inconceivable to me. I shall, therefore, leave it to the profound philosopher to develop the mystery. But what causes my hypothesis to be an almost

incontrovertibly certain is, its being in our power to extract salts from every part of the surface of the earth; and the salts which are emitted by every animal and vegetive body: this would certainly not be the case, if there were not a constant infusion from the globe of salt which is concealed from our sight by a strata of clay and minerals in one place, and clay, rock and coal in others, &c.

By this time, Sir, I think you are convinced that my hypothesis is grounded on fact; and how joyful would it be, at present, to our western brethren if they could be made sensible that at every step they took there was plenty of the best salt under their feet! and if that they would fix on a spot for a spacious pit, where a strong and constant stream of water can be brought, sufficient to work the machinery, for drawing up the earth and rock, and to work the proper engines for throwing out the water (of which they will doubtless have a number of veins to pass thro') & to raise tons of salt, at a draught, when the works are completed, they might at the expense of a few thousand dollars, be enabled to draw from the bowels of the earth, hundreds of tons of salt in the course of twenty four hours! No man would the information be less pleasing to the people in the vicinity of the most populous commercial cities; if France and Spain be suffered to increase, with impunity, their depredations on our commerce: For as salt is almost the only real necessary article which the United States need to import, our sailors might be employed, in time of war, to work the salt mines, where being left at home with their families there would be no diminution of the population of the United States, either by the mercile's billows or the dumb arrows and poniard of the more mercile's French and Spanish pirates. Our merchants could employ their stock to much better advantage (than at present) by carrying on the salt works, and their ships they might lay up in a safe harbor till a general peace takes place.

But the main difficulty attending this grand and lucrative enterprise, is to inspire the people with a sufficient degree of faith for the undertaking. Whether this could be best effected by your condescending to address, in a direct manner, the people of the United States, or leave it to be communicated in your address or message to congress at the next session, or whether it would assume a greater degree of importance (like the improvement of the plough) to communicate the discovery to the Agricultural or Philosophical Societies of France, and let it be echoed to us by the newspapers of our sister republic, I mean that great empire of France, and let it be echoed and re-echoed through all the papers from one corner of the United States to another, I shall not presume to recommend; but shall leave it to your wisdom and philosophy may dictate to you, to the redounding to your honor and to the promotion of the happiness of the people of the United States. And shall with the highest degree of respect, subscribe myself, your most obedient, and truly humble servant,

A PENNSYLVANIA FARMER.

BOSTON, August 23.

We learn by Capt. Coffin, of the June, from the Isle of France, that the La Peeteche, French frigate of 32 guns, capt. Buquet, has been taken in the Bay of Bengal, by the British frigate St. Florentino, [rated in Steele's list 36 guns,] captain Bathurst. The battle lasted four hours. The French frigate was dismasted, and it was said lost all her officers except the captain, and had 40 men killed and 60 wounded. The British frigate was much damaged.

COMMERCE.

As a proof of the commercial spirit of our enterprising merchants, and the value put on *Merrimack shipbuilders*, we would mention the following vessels constructed on our banks, and launched into their destined element, the present season: most of them commanding the admiration of the connoisseurs of naval architecture, for the beauty of their construction and workmanship.

- Ship Huntress, 250 tons, belonging to Mr. Thomas M. Clark, and others.
- Ship Maria, 300 tons, belonging to Mr. Robert Foster and others.
- Ship Mechanick, 253 tons, belonging to Mr. Daniel Webster and others.
- Ship Bradford, 217 tons, belonging to Mr. John Pearson and Moses Emery.
- Ship Merrimack, 288 tons, belonging to Messrs. Amos Tappan and Stephen Howard.
- Ship Caledonia, 250 tons, belonging to Mr. Thomas and others.
- Ship Moses Brown, (off her stocks Wedn. day evening) 338 tons, belonging to Messrs. Wver, Juny and S. Brown.
- Brig Cuby, (late Black Sak) 110 tons, belonging to Capt. Wm. Russell.
- Brig Ann, 187 tons, belonging to Mr. Wm. Partons, Bolton.

Besides a number new on the stocks, some of which are almost ready for launch ing, which we shall notice in due time.

The total number, (excepting sloops) now belonging to this port, and registered in this district is—

- Ships 41—brigs 62—sloops 2—barques 2—schooners 66: some of which are in every part of the commercial world.