



Observe the signs of false deluged Peace, Unhappy'd by party rage, so live like Brothers.

Historical Letters.

From the Virginia Argus.

LETTER III.

MONUMENTS LEFT BY THE EGYPTIANS.

These are the pyramids, the obelisks, Lake Moeris, the famous Labyrinth, &c. In general, all these celebrated works astonish more by their colossal immensity, and the patience possessed by those who erected them, than by their taste and their utility.

As much uncertainty prevails relative to the period at which these pyramids were constructed, as upon the subject of their utility. Herodotus, who was initiated among the priests of Egypt, and to whom we are indebted for all the tokens of Egyptian antiquity which we at this time possess, fixes their construction about the time of the Trojan war; that is, about 1194 years before Jesus Christ.

The obelisks are simple monuments of stone, supposed to have been erected in a polished age, before the invention of alphabetical writing, by the Kings of Egypt, principally at Thebes and Heliopolis. Several of them were transported to Rome by the Emperors: and the largest of the whole, which is to be seen in our day, was conveyed thither by the orders of Constantius.

The lake Moeris, calculated for greater utility, was formed for the purpose of remedying the too great irregularity of the inundations of the Nile. The ancients computed that it was 240 miles or 80 leagues in circumference; but the moderns appear to agree in the opinion that it is not more than 60 miles or 20 leagues. The ancients must have exaggerated or the lake must have been considerably reduced in its dimensions by the revolutions of nature.

The famous Labyrinth embraced a magnificent congregation of twelve palaces or three hundred halls, which communicated with each other by an almost infinite number of windings and intricate ways.

DESCENDANTS OF THE EGYPTIANS.

The ancient Egyptian stock is supposed to be still extant in the Copts, who as modern travellers tell us, are distinguished by the moral qualities of ignorance, drunkenness, cunning and fineness. The first period of their degradation was the conquest of Egypt by Cambyses, an event that accrued 525 years before Christ. He changed the Laws, persecuted the Priests, and demolished the Temples. The second period is supposed to have been the persecution of Dioclesian, when Christianity had taken deep root in the country. After the death of Cambyses, Egypt continued under the Persian yoke, until Alexander the Great overturned that monarchy and built Alexandria. To him succeeded Ptolemy the son of Lago, about 332 years before Christ; and this Ptolemy was followed by ten Kings of that name until the time of the accomplished and voluptuous Cleopatra, the sister of the last Ptolemy, when Egypt became a Roman province, and so continued until the reign of Omar, the second caliph of Mahomet's successors, by whom the Romans were driven out after a possession of 700 years. When the caliph power declined, Saladin set up the empire of the Mamelouks, who eventually extended their dominion over a great portion of Arabia, Syria and Africa. A Turkish emperor, of the name of Selim, then conquered Egypt. Ali Bey attempted to wrest it from the Ottomans; but he was defeated and killed in 1773. His adherents, after his death, kept it in a very distracted state, until a compromise took place in 1789. In 1799, it was invaded by the French,

who landed at Alexandria, proceeded to Rosetta and Cairo, but were repulsed and arrested in their career at St. John D'Acre, by the intrepidity and skill of Sir Sidney Smith, a British naval officer of great merit.

There can be no doubt but the subjugation and colonization of Egypt has been an object upon which the French government has for many years fixed its most serious attention. Denon informs us that France, for a long period of time, has had it for a natural object of her policy; the motive of which, he alleges, is to counterbalance or to endeavor to destroy the British empire in India. If this motive still prevails, we may expect to see another effort made by Bonaparte to acquire the dominion of Egypt, and this at no very distant period.

Besides the Copts, Egypt is at present inhabited by various races of men, of which the Arabs are the most numerous. These latter are divided into three descriptions of persons, namely: The Arab Shepherd, who is lively and of a penetrating physiognomy; the Badouin Arab, who lives in a state of continual warfare, and is of a savage and ferocious character; and, lastly, the Arab cultivator, the most civilized, the most corrupted and the most degraded of the three. There is, also, the dull and heavy Turk, the wily Greek, the accumulating Jew whose character is every where the same, and the Barabras, from Nubia and the frontiers Abyssinia, of a jetty, shining black. The higher class of Egyptian women have some interesting points of character, but the lower orders are by no means fascinating. Despotism and frequent subjugation have instilled into the minds of the men the most servile principles, and accustomed them to the most abandoned vices; whilst the jealous notions of their masters have doomed the females to a life of seclusion. As typical of their abject condition, the Ass, that dull beast in other countries, seems to exist in the highest perfection in Egypt, and is comparatively speaking, quite a lively animal. The fruitfulness of Egypt is proverbial—and under proper cultivation it would be a granary for Europe.

LETTER IV.

OF THE

PHENICIANS AND CARTHAGENIANS.

Phoenicia was a sterile country, bordering upon the eastern extremity of the Mediterranean Sea. It was there that commerce first took birth. It is said the ancient and famous city of Sidon was the first to cultivate it. This city, in a moment of its greatest splendor, founded the colony of Tyre, which, after a time surpassed the parent state. Tyre, erected upon the same continent, and at no great distance from Sidon, became the arbiter of commerce and the mistress of the sea, when it was besieged by the Kings of Assyria. One of these was Nabuchodonosor, so famous in holy writ. This prince besieged, took, and totally destroyed it. The inhabitants, however, were not extirpated—but escaping from the ruins of their city, erected a new one on a little island, at a small distance from their former situation. This celebrated city, became a second time the sovereign of the seas, and a mart for the riches of the world, fell beneath the sword of Alexander the Great, who became master of it after a laborious siege, and totally destroyed it.

The celebrated Dido, being compelled to fly from Tyre, to escape the avidity of her brother King Pygmalion, who, for the sake of his wealth had basely murdered her husband Sicheus, one of the priests of Hercules—was followed by several vessels with adherents, and established herself on the coast of Africa, opposite to Sicily. She there purchased as much land as she could encompass with a bull's hide—which, cutting into small stripes, enveloped therewith a considerable quantity of ground, on which she built Carthage, which from this female trick, has also been called Byrsa, that is, the Hide. Dido founded Carthage about the 70th year of Rome. Virgil pretends that she killed herself because Aeneas forsook her; but this is mere fiction, which may be well permitted to a poet. Hiabaras, King of the Getulians, would have forced her by arms to marry him, but rather than violate her vow to her first husband she put an end to her life.—Such is the origin [wholly fabulous, perhaps,] of the celebrated Carthage, so

distinguished in history by her vast wealth, her great power, her long struggle for the empire of the world; and, in short, for her terrible downfall. Carthage existed for about 700 years; but it is only the last century of her history which excites great interest, because it embraces the three famous punic wars, and the celebrated expedition of Hannibal.

From a late London Paper.

AMERICAN STATES.

The dispute with America seems to be brought to a close, or nearly so, and appearances would indicate that an open rupture will be the consequence. I do not believe that an open rupture will take place; at least, I do not believe, that it will end in a war. But, in the meanwhile, it is proper to see the grounds of dispute in the right light, and endeavor to form a correct opinion as to its consequence. In the last volume of the Register, [see Raleigh Register of March 28] I gave a clear and concise history of the dispute. To that volume I must refer the reader for full information upon the subject; and the historical part of the article containing references to the documents in support of the several statements, there can remain no doubt as to the accuracy of the whole. The article here referred to was published on the 5th of December last, at which time I could not of course know what was then passing and had just passed in America. By a reference to that number, it will be seen, that the last of the documents, then in our possession, came down to 2d of November. They consisted, as will be seen, of a proclamation of the President, Mr. Madison, and of a circular letter of the Secretary of the Treasury, dated on the 2d of November. Since that time there have been published several important documents relating to the subject.

It clearly appears that the American government is resolved not to permit any intercourse with us, unless we annul our orders in council and revoke our system of paper blockade. This our ministers seem resolved not to do; and were not things in a wrong shape, I should commend them for their resolution. If they stood upon the manly ground of maritime sovereignty, I should say that they did well; but even then, as I said in the article above referred to, they seem bound, in consequence of their promises, to do away what the Americans complain of, if the French have repealed their Berlin and Milan decrees, and this, I believe, they have done. The question of right, however, no one can settle, in the case of nations. It is matter of expediency; and we have only to enquire whether it be or be not expedient for the Americans to break with us upon this ground—I am of opinion that it is. The persons who are now, and for some years have been at the head of affairs in America, are all hostile to foreign connections, and particularly connections with England, which they regard as dangerous to the liberties of America. They have seen what Banks and East-India companies, and meetings of merchants and bankers, have produced in England; and they seem to have resolved that the same shall not happen in their country. The stoppage of intercourse which took place two years ago produced a wonderful effect in America. It turned numbers, and very great numbers of those who were before employed in raising corn, and breeding cattle for exportation; it turned great number of these into manufacturers; and this was the more easy from a peculiarity in the America population, namely, that of a considerable portion of the people being manufacturers, who have emigrated from different parts of this kingdom, and especially from Ireland, and who, until of late, have been in America employed, for the far greater part, in agriculture. When, therefore, there was no longer any outlet for the superabundance of the soil, they fell to work to making woollen and linen and cotton cloth, and indeed all those things which were imported from England; and the progress made in manufactures is truly astonishing. The soil and climate of America admit of changes more rapid than in this or any country in Europe; and the people being unburdened with taxes, and of course with paupers; every family having a plenty for present spending and most of families some little matter beforehand, a

change from one occupation to another, or a short stagnation of trade, is of little consequence to the mass of the people; and of course the government feels little inconvenience from such stagnation.—Only ten years ago, no man dreamt of seeing cloth for his coat made in America. Now, they make as good cloth there as we can here, or at least so nearly so, that the difference is of no sort of consequence. Lands that were a wilderness when I was in that country are now not only settled, but have now considerable manufactories established in them.

The following statement, which I copy from the Baltimore Evening Post of the 20th Dec. 1810, will enable the reader to form some idea of the progress that manufactures are making. He will observe that these are, all but the first settlements, quite recently formed. The land was covered with woods only about 12 or 15 years ago. One of them is, he will perceive, in Kentucky; and when he has well considered this statement, he will want little more to enable him to say when the manufactures of England will cease to be wanted in America.

Table with 2 columns: County Name and Inhabitants/Manufactures. Includes Ulster County, N. York and Tennessee County.

Tennessee county has 12,647 inhabitants: ten years since it was almost a wilderness; who during the present year manufactured 29,767 yds. wool cloth, 7,700 g. whiskey, 16,690 do. linen do., 1,400 bush. salt, 2,427 do. cotton do., 187 tons potash, 10,500 lbs. leather.

Jefferson county has 15,136 inhabitants—whom last year manufactured about 64,000 yards of cloth, 54,000 of which were woollen; they have 23,505 sheep.

Nelson county, Kentucky, has 14,633 inhabitants—who last year manufactured 190,880 yds. of cloth, 1,000 g. lins. oil, 76,370 lbs. sugar, 28,000 lbs. cut nails, 200,000 do. hemp, 2,000 do. powder, 160,103 g. whiskey, 4,550 hides, 125,009 lbs. spun yarn.

It is not in the nature of things that such a country should remain dependent upon this, or any other, for its wearing apparel or household furniture. Compare the number of yards of cloth with the number of persons, and you will soon see what the country is capable of, and what it is actually doing. It is, as I before observed, a favorite object with Mr. Madison and with all those who have much influence in America, to render their country independent of this and all other countries; but, especially to wean it off from this country, whence they have most reason to apprehend those mischiefs which they are anxious to prevent. External commerce has never been a favorite with them; and if they quarrel about it with other nations, it is merely for the purpose of getting plausible grounds for shutting it out. So that our ministers appear to me to be doing precisely the thing that the American government most earnestly wishes for; and, I shall be very much deceived indeed, if we do not find the latter so manage the dispute in future as to prevent the commercial intercourse from being renewed at any future period. The suspensions of it before have prepared the way gradually for a complete and perpetual putting an end to it, and, as if nothing was to be left undone in the work. "The deliverance of Europe," by the Pitt School has thrown a fair share of the flocks of Spain into the hands of the Americans, and the same work of "deliverance" has, for 18 years, been sending manufacturers to make the wool into cloth.

To American commerce, therefore, we may now bid adieu, I think forever; and very glad shall I be of it, being fully convinced, that to external commerce we owe no small part of the evils we endure; and that external commerce is not at all necessary either to the independence or the happiness of England. Indeed, I am fully convinced, that the exact contrary is the case, and that it is to this species of commerce, that the country now owes the far greater part of its dangers and its miseries. How many millions has this commerce cost us in fleets, in armies, in convoys, in all the long lists of contractors and jobbers belonging to them; and all growing out of this external commerce! How many millions have the East India Company cost us? How many millions have been lent to sustain this commerce—what ruin, what misery, what millions

of mischiefs has this commerce bro't upon us! What a bold does it now give our great enemy;—and how it enables him to annoy us! I am aware, that, in the destruction of external commerce will be included the ruin of many worthy individuals; but, though I feel for them, I must feel more for my country. I shall continue this subject in my next, particularly as to the documents lately published, relative to the dispute with America. WM. COBBETT.

State Prison, Newgate, March 5, 1811.

A Partner Wanted.

A YOUNG MAN, A PRINTER by profession possessed of two or three thousand dollars, of talents and information sufficient to conduct the editorial department of the Watchman, and who is willing to embark in the Printing, Bookbinding, and Bookselling business, may have a permanent birth at this office. He must be steady and industrious, and bring the most ample and unexceptionable recommendation. Letters on the subject must be post paid, and addressed to the

EDITOR OF THE WATCHMAN, Wilmington (Del.) May 15.

Editors of papers will confer a favor by giving the above a few insertions.

WAS TAKEN UP.

On Wednesday the 8th inst, at my House, in Rockingham County, N. C. 7 1/2 miles from Salisbury and 16 from Danyille, Va.

A NEGRO FELLOW, who says he belongs to William Reaves, of South Carolina, living about twenty miles from the Old Nation Ford on the Catawba—Said Negro is about 27 years old, five feet eight inches high, of a yellow complexion—had on when taken up, a striped homespun big coat, and a close-bodied coat of homespun, with cotton pantaloons.—He calls himself Isham. The owner is requested to come forward, prove his property and take him away, by paying charges. WILLIAM BETHELL.

May 10, 1811. 3:10

Committed

TO THE JAIL OF BERTIE COUNTY,

A NEGRO MAN, named JULY, supposed to be the property of William M'Keeny, of Lancaster S. C.) The owner is requested to come forward, pay charges, and take him away, or he will be dealt with as the law directs. JAMES PALMER, Windsor, May 27. 3:11 Jailor.

NEW BOOKS.

J. GALES has just received from Philadelphia the following new & valuable Books, Jacob's Law Dictionary, 6 volumes 8vo, Selwin's Nisi Prius, 2 vols. Johnson's Reports, vols. 5 and 6, Bay's ditto vol. 2, East's ditto vol. 11, Evans's Trial, a case of Assault and Battery, including an interesting discussion respecting the discipline of the Society of Friends, Taunton's ditto vol. 1, Swift's Evidence, Medical Lexicon, in the manner of Quincy, Burn's Midwifery, Bruce on Asthma, Thompson's Chymistry, Chymical Catechism, Duffel's Nature Displayed, 2 vols, New Universal and Pronouncing Dictionary of the French and English Languages, 3 vols. Spanish Grammar, Paley's Theology, Buck's Theological Dictionary, 2 vols. Miscellaneous Works, 2 vols. Lempriere's Classical Dictionary, Turner's Abridgment of the Arts & Sciences, Witherspoon's Philosophical Lectures, Miscellaneous, Blair's Philosophical Grammar, Chymical ditto, Historical Grammar, Andrews's Logic, Staunton's Embassy to China, Whelpley's Historical Compend, Gass's Journal of Lewis & Clark's Voyage, Montgomery's "West-Indies," American Speaker, [History, Tuler's Elements of Ancient and Modern Nichol's Compend of Geography and Astronomy; and New Atlas for Students, price only one dollar. April 18.

Just Published, In three handsome Octavo Volumes, Price Nine Dollars, And for sale at J. Gales' store, Raleigh.

THE BRITISH CICERO.

OR A Selection of the most admired Speeches in the English Language, arranged under three distinct heads of Popular, Parliamentary and Judicial Oratory; with Historical Illustrations. To which is prefixed an Introduction to the Study and Practice of Eloquence.

BY THOMAS BROWN, LL. D. In the Press, and will soon be published, The 6th Volume of RUSSELL'S MODERN EUROPE Those who are in possession of the 5 first Volumes may be furnished with this additional Volume, by forwarding their names to J. Gales. And those who are not yet possessors of this valuable Work may have the Six Vols together. May 30,