

FROM THE BRITISH REVIEW.

LIBERTY OF THE CONTINENTAL PRESS.

In endeavoring to estimate what, during the next age, may be the influence of the press in improving the condition of the European world, it is natural to turn our first attention to France.

In trying to conjecture what degree of liberty the press is likely to enjoy in France, the melancholy experience of human affairs seems to require that we should anticipate the worst, rather than the best state of things, of which its present civilization will admit.

When doctrines such as those which we have quoted from the work of M. Constant, are published in the most popular works of the day; and when the people have fairly had the experience of so considerable a degree of that liberty, as has in fact existed in France during several months, we do trust, and with some confidence, that their impulse towards it in the public mind is too powerful to be obliterated.

If it should happen, that a family, claiming to hold its sovereign powers, not by the will of the people, but by hereditary and indefeasible right; a family regarding every thing which it permits the people to enjoy as the effect of its grace and bounty, not part of that which the people ought to claim—and, if it is withheld, to take—be again seated on the throne of that great country, the bayonets of a confederacy of sovereigns, there will certainly be great reason to fear, that almost every restriction which law and government can maintain, will be imposed upon the freedom of the press in France.

In other respects, however, the situation of Europe, we fear, is less favorable to this, or any other species of freedom. In former times, Holland was a republic; and enjoyed a press eminently free. From the press of Holland issued books, composed in

France and other countries in which they durst not have appeared, & thence made their way into every quarter of Europe. This was an advantage of unspeakable importance.

The free cities allowed great liberties to the press; and, upon the whole, the circulation of useful truth was considerably favored in all that mighty empire. There is no chance whatever that any such facilities will be granted under the arrangements which may be ultimately made by the Sovereigns of the Congress of Vienna.

Under all the circumstances of the case, we cannot find reason to hope that the progress of the human mind will be very rapid during the years that are first to ensue. It will not, however, it may easily be foreseen, be either stationary or quiet; and never again will it wear its shackles with contentment.

From Collett's Political Register, Dec. 9.

"I kept silence," says St. Paul, "even from good words, though it was gain and grief to me." In this respect I have, for a long while, been imitating the apostle.

According to the practice of the law in England, the publication of truth, clearly proved truth, nay, notorious truth, though concerning public men and their actions as public men, may be deemed a crime, and punished with imprisonment in felons' jails, and with heavy fines, and even with pillory besides.

It is, therefore, proposed to place in the city of New York, some person, to go from England next spring, who shall cause to be printed, and published in that city, & throughout the United States, such writings as the authors may not choose to put to press here.

that they sell, and of the persons to whom they sell them. No man dares to have types or a press in his possession without a license. No printer dares put any thing to press without being able and ready to discover, and swear to, the author, or his employer.

Though a man does not like to have his mind subjected to these restraints, he may like the country as well as Fuller. He may have an estate and many other ties, which bind him to the country; and what is more, he may think, that duty even towards that country, bids him remain in it.

To do this thing well; to put the machine into efficient motion, and to keep up that motion, there must be a regular and rapid communication between England and America, carried on by persons of some talent, and of great zeal and activity.

An intelligent person, fixed in the city of New-York, would not only cause to be printed and promulgated any original writings sent to him from England; but he would be able to send from America to England such American publications as he might think likely to be useful here; and if any curious persons wished to see the original writings that he published at N. York, they might, through the same means, obtain them.

As for myself, I must confess, that I would rather live on bread and water for the remainder of my life, than not have a regular literary intercourse with America. That is now the only country in the world, in the fate of which we can feel much interest.

But, even in this stage of the project, I cannot refrain from stating, for myself, that, those who may look upon this as a scheme for the dissemination of venom, of falsehood, of scandalous anecdotes, will find themselves disappointed. For many years I have not dealt in any thing but dry politics, & matters closely connected with politics.

The communication between England and America is now, and always has been, carried on by the merchants, by manufacturers and their agents, by newspapers and other periodical publications, in both countries, as reported by the views of these persons, and accorded with their feelings, have, except in casual instances, been sent from one country to the other.

ing-houses in America were poured into England none but those newspapers which represented the country as resolved to depose the President rather than prosecute a war against England. Those papers were regarded by our ministers and by the nation, as truly describing the state of the public mind in America; and as it is well known to every man in England, the universal expectation was, that the people of America were ready to pull down their government, and to throw themselves into our arms.

Is it not then, of vast importance, that the two nations should know one another? Go to the commercial coffee-houses in London, where files of American newspapers are kept, and you see there only such papers as are under influence of commercial men.

This evil, which is really a great evil to the whole world, would be, in a great measure, checked by the plan now proposed. For a regular and speedy communication between the editor of the Register, and an intelligent and active person in America, a communication which would enable that editor to keep the state of public opinion in America constantly before the eyes of the English; and to make the Americans acquainted with all that is passing here, would, and must, defeat in a short time, all the endeavors of those whose object it might be to give false impressions.

It is with these impressions on mind, that I have suggested the plan, and that I shall lend the utmost of my attention to the carrying of it into effect. The person, or persons going out, will hereafter be named; and the mode of communicating with the Register through them, will be pointed out.

Nothing appears to me to be more easy of execution; and, for my own part, I shall think a dozen years well spent in aiding the undertaking.

WRAPPING PAPER.

J. GALES has just finished making a quantity of good WRAPPING PAPER of both large and small sizes. The large is sold at \$2 a Ream, the small at \$1 1/2.

MILLS AND LANDS FOR SALE.

STRAYED OR STOLEN.

FROM the Subscriber, (residing in Mecklenburg county, North-Carolina) during the night of the 15th of December last, out of the Stable of Joseph Hart in Lincoln county, a Chestnut Sorrel MARE, about 14 months old, high, heavy made, a small blaze in her face, a tlemish in her left eye occasioned by the stroke of a whip, her hind feet both white and remarkably rugged by her being and before.

Any person giving information so that I get her again, shall be well rewarded.

SAMUEL BRIDGES, March 1.

RAN AWAY.

From John B. Powell's, in Warren County, in April, 1815.

A NEGRO WENCH NAMED FAN, raised in that County, aged about 40 years, rather yellow complexion, 5 feet and a half high, some of her fore-teeth missing, a scar on one of her arms below her elbow, occasioned by the cut of a knife. Carried off a quantity of good clothes, some silk. The said Negro now belongs to the estate of Thomas Stackhouse, dec'd.

FIFTY DOLLARS REWARD will be given on delivery of said Negro to me at Warrenton, or THIRTY DOLLARS if secured in any jail so that I can get her.

THOS. BRAGG, Administrator. Jan. 15th. 1816.

RATES OF POSTAGE.

THE following will be the Rates of Postage on and after the first of April next, agreeably to act of Congress passed February 1st, 1816.

Table with 3 columns: Any distance not exceeding, Over 40 and not exceeding, Over 50, Over 150, Over 300, Over 500. Miles, Cts.

Double Letters—or those composed of two pieces of paper, are charged with double those rates.

Triple Letters—with triple those rates. Quadruple Letters—with quadruple those rates.

Every packet composed of four or more pieces of paper, and weighing one ounce or more, is to be charged with single postage for each quarter of an ounce; except letters conveyed by water mails, which are not to be charged with more than quadruple postage, unless the packets actually contain more than four distinct letters.

Rates of Postage of Newspapers.

Each paper carried not over 100 miles 1 Cent. Over 100 miles 1 1/2

But if carried to any post-office in the State in which it is printed, whatever be the distance, the rate is 1 Cent.

Magazines and Pamphlets.

Are rated by the sheet. Carried not over 30 miles, per sheet 1 Cent. Over 30, and not over 100, do 1 1/2 Any greater distance, 2

R. J. MEIGS, Jr. F. M. G. General Post Office, Feb. 19, 1816.

NAVY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

18th January, 1816.

THE Board of Naval Commissioners will receive, until the 1st day of April next, proposals for furnishing the following description of articles required for navy use, viz. Cannon, cartridges and cannon locks. Ball, round, grape, cannister and lead. Saltpetre, sulphur. Cannon and priming powder. Muskets, pistols, swords, boarding pikes and bayonets. Copper—Sheeting assorted, say 1/8 of 12 ozs. 1/8th of 24 ozs. 1/8th of 26 ozs. 1/4th of 28 ozs. 1/4th of 32 ozs. and 1/5th of 34 ozs. Copper bolts, spikes, sheathing nails—assorted. Lead in pigs and sheets. Anchores from 300 to 8000 lbs. Iron Kettleage. Hemp, American. Twine—whipping, sewing and seine. Iron for shipping. Staves—leger, pint, hoghead and gang. Canvas. Binding. Seamen's clothing—hats, shoes, trousers, shirts and jackets. Flannel and wild-bores for cartridges. Lignum vitae and paints. To be delivered either at Washington, Boston or New York.

Persons tendering a supply of any of these articles, will be pleased to state particularly the kind—the greatest and the least quantity of each article they may be disposed to furnish—and on the envelope of the tenders they will endorse the substance of their proposals in the following form.

Proposals to furnish \_\_\_\_\_ for the use of the Navy, made by \_\_\_\_\_

in consequence of the Navy Commissioners' advertisement of 12th January, 1816.

With those whose proposals may be accepted, the commissioners will enter into contracts, and in cases where the articles are not to be immediately delivered, and paid for, the contractors will be required to give satisfactory security for the performance of their contracts; and it will be well for them to accompany their tenders with the names of the persons disposed to become their sureties, and evidence of their competency.

On the first day of April next, and not before, all the tenders will be opened and acted upon.

JOHN RODGERS, President of the Board of Navy Commissioners.