



From Cobbett's Political Register, Jan. 27.

COBBETT'S AMERICAN PROJECT

Fully developed in all its parts. To Correspondents in England; to Gentlemen in England, who may wish to be supplied with American publications; to Gentlemen in America, who may wish to be supplied with English Publications; and to Readers in General.

Peckham Lodge, Jan. 21, 1816.

TO CORRESPONDENTS IN ENGLAND.

I have now before me, six very well written essays from one person, sent me last week, all which I should gladly insert, were it not for the existence of circumstances, which it can hardly be necessary for me, minutely to describe. A letter from H. S. of Reading, received some months ago, about the auditing of accounts; and a great number of others, of greater or less merit, and, for the most part, containing facts, very curious in themselves and very interesting to people in general; and, moreover, well calculated, in my opinion, to do a great deal of good to the world, if made public; all these are in the same situation. Now, it must be very provoking to the writers to reflect, that these papers would be suppressed, and it is very painful to me to think, that I am liable to be suspected of a wish to see them suppressed. Therefore, it is intended to send all such papers to New York, and to cause them to be published there, in quarterly, or half-yearly, volumes, under the title of "Cobbett's collection of Suppressed Communications." Thus the field of utility is flung open to any man, who has the talent and the will to do good with his pen, on the subject of government, politics and religion, and of characters and acts, connected with those subjects; or on any other subjects of general interest. Few men will be found hardy enough to deny, that, if the field of discussion be free, Truth will prevail in every contest with falsehood. Therefore, it must be an unmixed good to afford men the means of freely expressing their thoughts. There are, however, certain conditions, necessary to be stated here, upon which alone communications will be admitted into the intended "Collection."

- 1. If the Communication do not contain the statement of any fact, new to the public, affecting the character of any individual person, or any particular body or description of persons, the writer may affix his real name, or not, according to his own choice; because argument and inference want not the support of witnesses.
2. When the communication does contain such fact, and when, of course, the justice of the statement, and the propriety of making it public, must depend upon the truth of the fact, and that again upon the veracity of the writer, he must affix his real name and describe his place of abode; and if, as may possibly be the case, he has reason to fear the consequences of truth appearing under his name, though in a distant country, he must add a private note, pointing out his name and place of abode, so as to enable me to satisfy myself as to the fact, or facts, that he has stated.
3. That the subject of the communication be of a public nature, fairly so considered. That the Letter or Essay, relate to something, in which the public is interested; and that it deal not in an anecdote purely of a private nature, even though the parties concerned be really public men.
4. That the communication, if intended to be published without alteration, be carefully written and pointed. If it be a mere hint, or a mere fact, communicated, without a wish for it to appear in the same form in print, less care will be necessary. But, in no case, will any communication be attended to, unless it come in a hand so legible as not to expose the printer to mistakes.
5. That every communication be addressed to WILLIAM COBBETT, at Bailey, near Southampton; or left, directed to the same, at the office of the Political Register, London; and that, in all cases, there be no charge of postage to be paid, this being a very serious matter to one, who receives a great many letters, though a mere trifle to the many who send them.

The field being thus fairly opened, any person, on the above conditions, may write to me with perfect freedom, and with the confident expectation, that what they write will be published, it being understood, of course, that the language will be decorous, and that the matter be such as ought not to be considered libellous. The receipt of all such communications will be acknowledged in the next or succeeding Register. As to any promise to import into this country the publication in question, or, to be aiding and assisting therein, either by word or deed, that is wholly out of the question. All

that I engage to do is, to send, and (the dangers of the seas excepted) to cause to be published, such communications as I shall receive for that purpose and as I shall deem worthy of publication, this being a matter, which, from the nature of the case, must be left wholly to my judgment.

TO GENTLEMEN, IN ENGLAND, WHO MAY WISH TO BE SUPPLIED WITH AMERICAN PUBLICATIONS.—My Plan of opening and keeping up a LITERARY INTERCOURSE between England and America embraces the object of securing the facility of persons in the two countries respectively coming at the current publications of the other country in a mode more regular and speedy than any that has hitherto been practised. Orders will, therefore, be received in writing, addressed to me, as above, for any particular American Publication old or new; or for the new publications generally, or those of a specific class, of that country. So that such order may be confined to a particular work; to all new works on law, or on medicine, or on theology, or on political economy, or on government and domestic politics, or on mathematics, or on mechanics, or on any branch of the arts or sciences, &c. &c. or the order may embrace all new publications of whatever description they may be. The orders thus received will be transmitted to my correspondents in the United States; and, when the publications arrive in England, they will be delivered to the Gentlemen who have ordered them, they paying for them at the rate of 25 per centum higher, than the retail price in America, and no more in any case whatever. I, of course, include Booksellers amongst the Gentlemen who may wish to be thus supplied; and I shall think myself extremely happy to be able, by the activity which I hope to give to my correspondence and intercourse, to furnish them, upon any occasion, with the means of republishing a valuable American work at a period earlier than they would be able otherwise to do it.

TO GENTLEMEN, IN AMERICA, WHO MAY WISH TO BE SUPPLIED WITH ENGLISH PUBLICATIONS.—Every thing said under the last head may be considered as repeated under this, with the mere change of the names of the countries; and with this alteration as to the channel of application, that Gentlemen in the United States will please to give their orders, for the present, solely to Mr. JOHN MORGAN of Philadelphia. In all cases the Orders should be in writing, and as specific as possible. I hope I need scarcely add, that in case any gentlemen should think proper to leave to me the work of selection, it will be performed to the best of my judgment. As to the publications to be imported, where orders are somewhat discretionary are given, I shall spare no pains to obtain the aid of good judges in America. One of the particulars of an Order might be not to exceed a certain sum. The main thing appears to me to be to insure speed in the execution of orders; and, it is my intention to make all considerations of convenience, expence of shipping, &c. give way to this great object; and, on no account, to suffer the execution of an Order, however small, to linger a single day beyond the first, on which it can possibly take place. I expect shortly to receive ample catalogues of American books; and I am taking steps to send out to America English catalogues, and shall be glad to have sent to me, for the purpose here stated, the catalogues of any of the Booksellers in England, Scotland or Ireland.

TO READERS IN GENERAL.—After a man has worked himself into a fondness for a project, he is, perhaps, the worst possible judge of its chances of success. But, as, in this case, I have, and shall have, no publication of my own, nor any one in which I am, or can be, at all interested in the mere sale of, either to export or import; as I am not, and shall not be, a bookseller, a failure of success would produce a disappointment merely of those hopes which I entertain of contributing in this way also, towards bringing the men of mind, in the two countries, better acquainted with each other. Mine is a scheme for making people talk to each other across the Atlantic. I do not know when I have enjoyed so much pleasure as I felt yesterday upon opening a letter sent me up from

home. It is a letter from a gentleman at Nashville in the state of TENNESSEE. Nashville is situated on Cumberland River, which falls into the Mississippi at 1049 miles distant from the Gulph of Mexico. There are several chains of mountains between Nashville and Philadelphia, and the travelling distance is, I suppose, more than 1000 miles. Yet this letter addressed to me at "Botley, near Southampton, England," arrived safe in that village in less than two months from the day of its date. The object of the letter is to obtain the Register regularly in future, and also the preceding Numbers of it, for some gentlemen at Nashville, an object which it will assuredly accomplish, and by which accomplishment it will more than realise POPE's beautiful idea of the power of Letters, to "waft a wish from Indus to the Pole." Priests assure us, that, by faith, mountains may be removed, a fact, which, having no actual experience to the contrary, I am by no means disposed to deny; but, I have here before my eyes a proof, that mountains and wildernesses and seas are no obstacle to the powers of the mind, seconded by those of the press. There is, however, and always must be, considerable delay occasioned by sending to America the Registers which have been printed here. There is the time for printing; the time and expence required for shipping; the time which elapses, after shipment takes place, before the ship actually sails; and, which is more than all the rest, my pen is here confined by a tether much shorter than that which may be obtained for it by sending some of its productions in manuscript to be published in the United States. I have spoken of my intentions as to this matter before; but I will now be so explicit as to leave no room whatever for conjecture. In a short time, two persons will go out to the United States. Their business there will be to receive orders for books to be sent from England to America, to receive, when they arrive from England, the books so ordered; to receive from me, and to execute orders for American books, to be sent by them to England; to receive and forward to me any written communications from Gentlemen in America; to publish any work which I choose to have published in America; but more especially to cause to be printed, and to publish "Cobbett's Weekly Political Register," at New-York. It is intended that they shall publish the work in precisely the same form that it has in England; and that they shall cause the numbers to follow each other weekly, if possible; or, at least, as regularly as the arrivals of the manuscript will admit of. Each Number will contain my own principal LETTER or ESSAY, which will be first published in the corresponding number in England, (beginning with No., Vol. 50) together with Notes, containing such explanations or additional facts as may be thought useful on the other side of the Atlantic. The rest of the American Register will contain matter wholly new, sent out in manuscript, in the charge of persons going to America, or of persons sent expressly. The publication will begin with the present year; and the title of the first Number of it will be in these words "COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER. Vol. 50, No. Written in England, and published at New-York, 1816."

Some persons will wonder, & some will laugh, at the idea of such an undertaking. But, great as the labor must be, it being neither more or less than that of writing for the press, nearly five pages of the Register every day of my life, Sundays included, together with that of making, at least, two manuscript copies, for fear of accidents, this is not more than a man may do, if he has the will. The trouble and expence of sending out the manuscript, to say nothing of the sending out of the agents, or ambassadors, will certainly be considerable, and will compel me to seek compensation for these as well as a remuneration for time and labor by a price on the Register, much higher, in proportion to its bulk, than that of publications in America generally. I cannot say, exactly, what the price will be; but, I imagine, that it must be a quarter of a dollar, with an al-

lowance of eight cents out of the twenty-five to booksellers, or others, who may take any quantity, however small, to sell again. The paper and printing may cost about 7 cents, the agency in America 2; so that there may remain about 8 cents for authorship and sending out manuscript. The Agents, or Publishers at New-York, will receive orders from Booksellers, or other retailers, only, and will not, except at their own office, sell to individuals, as it would be to make their employment too confused to suffer them to be retailers all over the country, and thus to hamper themselves with debts and credits, when the whole of their time will be required to discharge well the office of Publisher, and to be punctual and full in their correspondence with me. If, therefore, the publication should be thought worth the trouble of obtaining it from a distance, the Booksellers in the different cities and towns, will have nothing to do but to write to the Publishers for the number of copies that they may want. The Publishers will, I hope, execute their orders with that regularity and speed, with which I shall enjoin them to execute every order, whether great or small in amount. They will receive all letters which gentlemen in America, may wish to be forwarded to me; and they will be strictly charged to be very attentive to every person who may wish to make me any communication of whatever kind. The names of the persons, to whom this business is to be committed, are Mr. HENRY COBBETT, my Nephew, and Mr. G. S. OLDFIELD. I have wrought myself into a persuasion, that I am, by these means, able to render great services, not only to the people of America but the cause of freedom and happiness generally, not leaving my own native country out of view. To make known to America, and, through her, to a great part of the world, what is passing in England; what the conduct of her government really has been and is; what have been, and are, the effects which that conduct has produced upon the people here; what is our real situation; what is the true character, and what are the motives and views, of persons in authority in this country, whose power and influence have had such weight in deciding on the lot of other nations; to do this, and that, too, through the channel of such a press as that of America, appears to me to be likely to be attended with effects that cannot possibly be other than good. And if I am asked, why I presume to suppose, that my interference is necessary to this end, I answer that, though I am well aware that America contains many men, whose wishes are as good, and whose talents are far superior to mine; yet, that, from the local experience which I have accidentally acquired, and from that knowledge of all sorts of affairs in this country, which so many years of observation, conversation and diligent enquiry and application have given me, I much doubt, whether any man, though of ten times the talent, destitute of those advantages, would be able to perform the task with so much effect as myself. Be this as it may, however, I shall certainly do much towards the accomplishment of my great object; for either my work will succeed or it will sink under the competition of abler pens and more extensive knowledge. So that, be the result what it may, I shall have the satisfaction to reflect, that, if I have not been able to accomplish the object myself, I have, in some degree, at any rate, been the cause of its having been accomplished by others.

To those, who are disposed to insinuate, that I am about to act unfairly, in publishing, in another country, statements relative to men and things in this country, and relative to its foreign allies, I observe, that the same press, which conveys my publications to the world, is always open to those writers who may choose to become my opponents, with this great disadvantage on my side, that, if I am answered, it must necessarily be several months before I can possibly put forth a reply. America contains thousands of fast friends of the English system; thousands of British subjects, not to mention some Americans, and these too, having portions of the press in their hands. To fling down the gauntlet under such circumstances is so far from being unfair, that it is an act against which common prudence would

cry aloud, were not her lips sealed by reflecting, that Truth, if unfettered, must finally triumph.

Some persons may imagine, taking the past into view, that I am about to resort to the American press as the means of obtaining revenge; and that I shall now give a loose to my pen, letting it run on wholly unrestrained by any considerations of decorum or of truth. In the first place, this would be to defeat my own object, for it would speedily excite disgust in the whole of that people, to whom I shall immediately address myself; and in the next place it would justly expose the publishers to legal punishment. Therefore, those who expect that I am about to gratify the taste of the foolish, or the malignant, by the pouring forth of abuse & calumny, will find themselves (though, perhaps, not agreeably) disappointed.

In short, (and this is saying all in one single phrase,) of every essay, or article, that I shall authorise to be published, the stoutest partizan of the English system shall be ashamed openly to say; "this ought not to be freely permitted to be published in England."

Having now fully and candidly explained my intentions, without the smallest reserve, correspondents and friends may, in future, save themselves the trouble of putting any questions to me on the subject; and if there be others, who have been making inquiries, whether by themselves or spies, as to whether I am "having any thing printed to be sent to America," they may now either give up the chase, or direct their trarriers across the ocean.

W. COBBETT.

FROM THE BALTIMORE PATRIOT.

FEDERAL DISAGREEMENT.

On the National Bank question a serious division took place among the federalists in Congress. In the debate some days ago, Mr. Webster, an able but violent member of the party, pointedly condemned those of his friends who voted for the bill, and charged them with the desertion, not only of their principles, but of their friends. Mr. Hulbert, whose honest and independent conduct we have often had reason to admire, "protested with warmth against the prescription which had been denounced, by Mr. Webster, against those federal members who were in favor of the bank;" and said that he came to Congress to act from the convictions of his own mind, & "should despise himself if he could submit to do as this or that side of the House pointed its finger." Mr. Grosvenor also denied the right of Mr. Webster to lecture other federalists for pursuing the course which their duty prescribed to them; declared that he would not "be drilled to vote in this or that manner;" retorted the charge of inconsistency upon Mr. Webster, and intimated that some secret federal cabal had made the opposition to the bank, as passed, a matter of principle. Mr. Webster persisted in denouncing the federal minority; and Mr. Hulbert again replied, "disdaining the insinuation" which would "attribute his conduct to improper influence," and that he "would prefer parting with friends to parting with conscience." This manly and independent conduct of Mr. Hulbert and Mr. Grosvenor is almost a perfect novelty among the federal leaders in Congress; and they deserve applause for breaking the shackles of party, by which the consciences of too many otherwise honest federalists have been long and fatally kept in ignominious bondage.

STRAYED.

From Raleigh, on the 24th instant, A DARK BAY MARE, about 4 feet 10 inches high, with cropped tail and top and black feet. She was brought from Buncombe County in this State, and may have gone that course.

Any person who shall take up the said Mare, and restore her to the printer hereof, or give information where she may be found, will be handsomely rewarded. Mar. 27.

NOTICE.

THE subscribers qualified at February Term of Buncombe County Court, as Administrators of the Estate of John Clark, deceased. All persons indebted to said Estate are requested to come forward & make payment immediately. Those having claims against said Estate, are required to bring them forward properly authenticated, within the time prescribed by law, otherwise they will be barred of a recovery. MARY CLARK, Adm'r. SPENCER CLARK, Adm'r. February 27, 1816. 66 3w