LANCASTRIAN INSTITUTION.

House was laid in the city of Richmond on the 27th W. with all the formality usual on such occasions. A Prayer was put up to the Throne of Grace by the Rev. John D. Blair, and the following Oration was delived by Wm. Mumford, Esq.

Fellow-Citizens,-While I am deeply sensible of the honor conferred upon me, by my associates of the Lancastrian Institution, in selecting me as their Orator, I must be permitted to express regret, that some Gentleman of superior abilities to mine, was not requested to undertake the task of doing justice to your feelings and expectations, on this interesting occasion .- I am indeed, convinced that the greatest master of rhetoric, would find the subject of the present meeting worthy of his highest flights, and most animated effusions .- He might pourtray in glowog colours, the brilliant effects of a

an of Education by which the march of the human mind is accelerated,and warm your imaginations with lively descriptions of scenes of prosperity, hereafter to be realized in our country -when, by the influence of this and similar institutions, the poorer class of the people of Virginia shall become us remarkable for knowledge and virtue, as, unhappily, many of them are resent, for qualities of an opnosite haracter; -when poverty shall have been relieved from the depressing burden of ignorance, and genius ransomed from the chains imposed upon it by indigence and misery. He might canse your hearts to rejoice at the good that has already been accomplished, and stimulate the best faculties of your souls to persevering efforts in the cause of imprevement. But the time I have had for preparation will not permit my attempting so with a range; nor are my talents adequate to the undertaking. I am comforted, however, with the reflection, that your liberality and candor will pardon the defects of a hasty composition; and that the merits of the Lancastrian scheme, are such as not to require the splendid arts of Oratory, to set them off with borrowed honor, or elaborate arguments, to recommend them to your applause .-- A plain address to the understandings & judgments of my hearers will be sufficient, and perhaps, more appropriate to the simple, though admirable invention of the honest and benevolent Qua-

her, Joseph LANGASTER. We are now assembled, for the purpose of proceeding, with becoming solemnity and ceremonies, to lay the Corner Stone of a building, the first of its kind that has ever been erected in our City, but second, in importance, to none but the sacred Edifices dedicated to the worship of the Creator of heaven and earth—a building to be devoted to the elementary instruction of poor and destitute children gratis, and of all others on such terms as are calculated to encourage their approach to the fountain head of science. If, without learning, wise laws cannot be enacted, or judiciously enforced-if, as all history has evinced, a people without information, can neither understand their rights. nor assert them with effect, the School-house should be vencrated equally with the hall of legislation, or the seat of justice. It should be regarded as the parent of " legitimate" government, and well regulated liberty. As Ignorance is the fruitful source of the vices by which society is debased and human life rendered a scene of misery, the school-house, where principles of virtue are instilled and crimes are prevented, ought to be honored, as more conducive to the public good, than the gloomy mansions where offenders are confined, and equal, if not superior, in utility to the splendid Armory, where instruments of national defence are manufactured. True it is, that, without arms to protect us from invasion, our country might be subdued by a foreign foe; but it is equally true, that a people, uninstructed, and of course undisciplined, could not avail themselves of arms when put in their hands ;-- that degraded by ignorance, they would soon surrender the rights of freemen to domestic usarpation, and would then have little left that is worth defeading.

For the happy occasion which has called us together, we are indebted, Fellow-Citizens, to the liberal donations of many private persons, as well as to the multipoence of the Comment

To them, the Council of this City. thanks of their countrymen should be paid; and our acknowledgements are also due to the highly respectable Society of Bree and Accepted Masons, who have thought proper to favor us with their company and co-operation in the good work about to be commenced. It is, indeed, a work deserving the assistance of the members of that Society, whose peculiar objects. I believe, are Priendship, Science and Charity. The building to be erected, may emphatically be denominated the dwelling place of Charity; and that Goo, in whose holy character benificene is the most delightful attribute, we hope will condescend to look down upon it with his approbation .-When mortals are employed in doing good to each other, especially in providing for those who have none to help them, they are humbly imitating him, and may expect his blessing upon their endeavours.

Such were the sentiments of the upright Lancaster; and the blessing of his God was upon him, for a discovery so excellent, an improvement so essential, in the most and difficult of all arts. Education, could not have been accomplished without the inspiration of that being " from whom cometh every good and perfect gift." The glory of the Sage, on whose mind the wistom of the Deity is impressed, & made benefit of mankind, is far superior to that of the most successful military Hero, as the comforts of peace are preferable to the tumults and horrors of war. The time will come when the renown of the destroyers and tyrants of their fellow men will be forgetten, or turned into infamy; while the fame of a Faust, a Franklin, a Jenner, an Evans, a Fulton and a Lancaster, will be immortal, and continually grawing brighter with the length of days. Of all the benefactors of their species, perhaps the highest praise is due to him, whose ingenuity has removed the painful obstructions from the rugged entrastee into the paths of learning, and rendered pleasant and easy the acquisition of those elements which are the foundations of all other knowledge, Long, indeed, had the hopeless pupil of well-meaning incapacity and laborious duliness been condemned to toil and sorrow in the slow, and tedious, and disgusting tract, in which unskilful pedagogues followed each other. Long, indeed, (even from the days of Homer to the time in which we live) had Education been (justly, though allegorically) represented, as a plant whose root was black and bitter, and hard to be dug out of the ground, while its flower and fruit were beautiful and sweet. But at the touch of the genius of Lancaster, the difficulty of procuring this " plan of celestial seed" has vanished; nay, the root itself is sweetened and made palatable, even to the " whining school boy,' who now no longer " creeps, like snail,

unwilling to school." The mode of tuition in Lancastrian School, is such as to make it attractive to the youthful mind, by the judicious measures adopted, to stimulate emulation, without resorting to base and servile punishments; by the clearly intelligible, and, therefore, easy methods of communicating information; and by the systematic forms of conducting the business of the day, which are so contrived as to have a playful and amusing effect. The delighted pupil of Laucaster, is enticed, and not terrified into the gates of the temple of knowledge; yet is wisely trained to obedience by impartial and and the excellent System of Educasteady discipline, and formed by ex- tion, there carried into practice, concellent rules, to useful habits of methed and regularity of conduct.

From the happy combination of all these causes, results the truly extraordinary features of the Lancastrian system; the celerity with which the scholars are advanced in learning, and the facility of teaching a much greater number, by the same percepter, than in any other way. It follows, therefore, that a general introduction of that system into practice, would be of incalculable advantage; especially for the surpose of diffusing abiversally the light of knowledge, awang a numerous population, at a small expense. At this time, particularly, the value of this improvement in the plan of instruction, cannot be too highly estimated, when we consider that the

patriotic and elightened Laislators of footsteps of their prey, and that the es- | merely with the state of knowledge and Literary Fund, and will, probably, in a short time, establish public schools; for the Education of the children of the poor, throughout the Commonwealth. When that auspicious event shall take place, the Lancastrian teachers will be the most useful and efficient agents, and, possibly, absolutely necessary to accomplish the wise views of the General Assembly,

It seems, then, providentially intended, that this recent invention should be auxiliary to the designs of the Legislature, as well as to the zealous endeavors of Bible Societies, to disseminate the word of life among the poor in our land, Without the knowledge of letters, the Book of Divine Wisdom cannot be read : and without Lancastrian teachers, few, comparatively, can attain that indispensable knowledge,

But the most important trait in the Lancastrian scheme has not yet been mentioned: the moral and religious ideas which are daily imbibed by the young and susceptible minds of the pupils of this institution. In the schools conducted by Joseph Lancas. ter, and in those which are formed on his model, every thing is calculated to have the happy effect of inculcating Christian principles. Not only the sentences which the children are first taught to read are impressive extracts manifest by useful inventions for the from the sacred Scriptures, but reverence and love for the word of God. are skilfully blended with all their progressive attainments. With joy, then, may it be said by the friends of the religion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, that one of the grand distinguishing signs of the times of the Messiah, " that the poor have the gospel preached unto them," is remarkably renewed, in this our day, in the transactions of Bible Societies and Lancastrian Institutions; as well as in the disinterested labours of Missionaries among the heathen, and faithful Ministers among ourselves. The blessings of their divine Master will assuredly attend their efforts. His promise is undoubted, and its fulfilment certain, that, " if they faint not, they will receive the reward ;"-that " the sowers of precious seed will doubtless come again rejoicing, bringing their

sheaves with them." Permit me, therefore, fellow citizens, to congratulate you upon the glorious prospects now presented to your view, as Patriots, Philanthropists and Christians; and to express a cordial hope that the Citizens of Richmond will not again be accused of that apathy, and disregard to subjects of general interest, which have heretofore been too observable among us; that the Edifice, the corner-stone of which is to be laid this evening, will constitute a part only of the literary and scientific establishments which are destined to make conspicuous the public spirit and liberality of this City; especially, that wany days will not elaps before the Richmond Academy will " awake from her desolations, and put on her beautiful garments; lying neglected no longer, in ruins, and in the dust of the Earth."-To the friends of science, even "her stones are precious;" and ardent is their desire that "the time to favor her again" may be near at hand.

Let us now proceed to the business of the Evening; and may our Almighty and bountiful benefactor grant success to this and every other similar undertaking. May the School-House, now to be erected, be fostered and supported by wisdom and benificence, tinue to flourish, and, if possible, with increasing lastre, to the latest genera-

SIR ROBERT WILSON.

The interrogatories put to this gen erons man on his trial, have drawn forth replies, which are sufficient to insure him universal respect from all the friends of liberty and humanity. The following are the only extracts

for which we can find room: "Why, then, in the affair of Lavalette an affair foreign to your governmentdid you exert yourself to cast odium upon persons whose duty prescribed to them the prosecution of the charges against him !. Why did you treat them as perses you add, that they had sincovered the

Virginia, have lately encreased their cape of Lavalette had produced no other effect but to render these monsters more furious? Upon the first article of this interrogatory, I answer, that the affair of Lavalette (abstracted from the part I took in it) was not foreign to an Englishman. There existed a convention, signed by an English general, and ratified by the English government; and the trial of Lavalette was a manifest violation of that convention."

"It would appear that the honor of your country could not be the only consideration to which you must have yielded in this conjuncture, since you, yourself advance for its justification, the calamity of Lavalette, which you look upon as a dishonor to the cause of liberty and humanity? These two words, liberty and hus manity, become the proof of my explanation. In fact, the word liberty, when well understood, expresses respect for the laws and for justice. The laws were outraged by the violation of the treaty, and it was then reasonable to regard this as the cause of liberty and humanity. The phrases that follow come in aid of the justness of this interpretation, since in them I express the wish that England may escape the shame of participating anew in an assassination, and that every honest and independent man in Europe may have an opportunity of rejoicing in these times of mourning and ignoming.-It was not necessary for me to detail the various sentiments which animated me, following the order in which they present themselves to my mind; I wished only to draw a general picture, and there is a great distinction to be made between the precision which belongs essentially to a letter addressed confidentially to an enlightened friend, and the full developements which one destined for the pubic inspection, ought to possess."

Had Wellington acted in this manner, and asserted that validity of the capitulation of Paris, instead of conniving at the murder of Ney and others, his fame would stand on a different basis. But he has lost that opportunity, and must be classed with the basest of the crusaders against justice, honor and the rights of man.

Columbian.

THEM THE BOSTON RECORDER. Our black countrymen at Sierra Leone.

Many of our readers doubtless recollect, that about thirty people of colour left Boston early last winter with a view of settling themselves in the British colony et Sierra Leone in Afri-The vessel in which they sailed was the property and under the command of captain Paul Cuffee. Captain Cuffee has returned to this country, and brings letters from the emigrants to their friends and benefactors. We have seen one of the letters, dated April S, 1816. It states that they all arrived safe in Sierra Leone, after a passage of fifty five days, and were welcomed by all in the colony. The place is represented as 'good.' They is thus headed :have fruit of all kinds, and at all seasons of the year. The governor was very friendly; he gave each family a lot of land in the town and fifty acres of ' good land' in the country, or more in proportion to their families, and alallowed them the 'pick of the whole.' Their land in the country is about that is good.' The British were bringing in American vessels every week, with the slaves which they were carrying off under the Spanish flag. The slaves were all set free. There were five churches in the colony, and three or four schools, in one of which there are 150 female Africans, who are taught to read the word of God. The only thing which annoyed them was the immense number of ants, who go in bands, and kill all the serpents that fall in their way.'

DECLARATION OF INDEPEN-DENCE.

WE have no authentic copy of this most important State Paper, the very basis that supports the proud column of American Liberty, none, at least, on which the eye of taste can rest, for a moment, with satisfaction. WHY HAVE WE NOT

The English nation, still proud of their MAGNA CHARTA, though every provision it contains has been trampled upon by the hold ambition of their rulers, have published edition after edition of this instrument, each more splendid than its predecessor. Sir William Blackstone has collated and commented on it—his fine copy of Magna Charta has been excelled by later specimens of art, and the far similes of the seals and argustures. cutors who multiplied their efforts to as-sure their bloody triumph? Why did have made every reader of taste in Great Britain acquainted, in some degree, not

of art at the period in question, but with the literary attainments, also, of King John, King, Henry, and their "Barons

Surely the Declaration of AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE is at least, as well entir tled to the decorations of art as the Magna Charta of England; and if the fac similles of the signatures of the patriots who signed it, were published in America ca, it would serve to gratify a coriesity, at least as laudable as that which calls for imitations of the correspondents of Junius, or of the aristocracy that wrested the English Charter from the reluctant.

monarch of the day. We are firmly persuaded that the more the principles of our Declaration of Independence are spread ont before the eyes of the world, the more they will be admired, by foreign nation as well as our own : and every innocent and honest device that may serve to attract attention toward them, will serve, also, to promote the great cause of public liberty. Such an embellished edition as will render an ornament to an apartment, will have a tendencey to spread the knowledge of its contents, a: mong times who would otherwise have turned their thoughts but lightly towards the subject. Such an edition will serve to place it continually under the eye of man woman, and child in a family it will associate the pleasurable ideas of elegance and ornaments with the history of the transaction itself—and familiarize those principles which form, or ought to form, the very bond and cement of political society. Nor is it of small moment that such an edition, well executed, will serve as a specimen of the state of the FINE ARTS amongst us at the present day. Actuated by these views, the vubscriber proposes to publish

A Splendid Edition of the Declaration of Independence,

Which shall be, in all respects American. All the necessary materials shall be manufactured in this country, and expressly for this publication. The Designs, the Engravings shall be the work of American Artists: the publication throughout shall afford evidence of what our citizens have done in politics and can

Philodelphia, March, 1816.

Flan and terms of Subscription. Wher the publisher submitted the preceding notice of his intention to undertake this

national publication, although it had long occupied his reflections, he was not fully aware of its importance, for he had never suspected what the fact really is, that there is no where extant an authentic published copy of the most important Etate Paper in the annals of the The oniginal Declaration of Independence,

as deposited in the Secretary of State's office, was happily preserved when so many valuable papers were consumed by the enemy.— Without dwelling upon slight differences, inaccuracies, or omissions, the first words which present themselves in our printed copies, and even as they are of record on the Journals of the Old Congress, are, as follow :-

" A declaration by the Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled," whereas in the original the Declaration

" The unanimous declaration of the thirteen United States of America."

This is not a mere verbal distinction; it involves a difference in principle. Does it become Americans to be careless on this subject, or ought interpolation or alteration of amy kind to be permitted in a public document so sacred. Ought it not to be faithfully pretwo miles from town. They have plen- The American public will unhesitatingly and the rice and corn, and all other food swer YES! and the Publisher stands pledged d, letter for letter, and point for point !to have it so engraved, and to accompany it with the requisite proofs of authenticity.

The size of the Paper will be 36 inches by 24. It will be manufactured by Mr. Astron.

in his best manner and of the very best mate-

The Design, which is from the pencil of Mr. BRIDFORT, will be executed in imitation of Bus Relief; and will encircle the Declaration as a cordon of honor, surmounted by the Arms of the United States. Immediately under-neath the arms will be a large medaltion por-trait of General GEORGE WASHINGTON, supported by cornicopie, and embellished with Spears, Flags, and other Military trophies and emblems. On one side of this medaltion poptrait, will be a similar portrait of JOHN HAN. COEK, President of Congress July 4, 1776, and on the other, a portrait of THOMAS JEFFERSON, author of the Declaration of Independence.

The Arms "of the Thirteen United States," in medallions, united by wreaths of Olive Leaves, will form the remainder of the cordon, which will be further enriched by some

of the characteristic productions of the Unit-ed States, such as the Tobacco and Indigo Plants, the Cotton Shrub, Rice, esc.

The whole of the design, (excepting the portraits,) will be engraved by Mrs Monnar, of Philadelphia, who has for some weeks been at work on the plate.

Mr. Laner, of Hew-York, will engrave the portraits. By the advice of all the Artists engaged.

the publisher has abandoned the idea of printing the Declaration with Trees, and has delermixed to have the whole of it EMPRAYED. The ornamental disposition and style of tie engraving of the Decemation of Independence, which will occupy the interior of the cordons