

CANALS

From the Science (O.) Gazette. From the formation of civil society down to the present time, it has been the interest and duty of every social compact to endeavor to supply the want of the individuality of that society, and to facilitate the means of procuring the necessities, the comforts, and even the luxuries of life.

Egypt affords the earliest example of civilization; and there we find the first and the greatest specimens of art and refinement. As the country in general was a naturally sandy and dry, having but little fresh water except what was afforded by the Nile; and as the inhabitants increased rapidly, it became necessary to provide for them in such a manner, that the land should sustain the greatest possible number; as this would not only increase the wealth of the country, but add greatly to the power of the sovereign.

The ancient valley of the Nile was narrow in proportion to its length; and although it was equal to it, it did not exceed any part of the earth in fertility, owing to the Nile climate, and the annual floods, of the Nile; yet the inhabitants soon increased so as to fill the valley, and it was evident that the subsequent surplus must emigrate or be miserable.

The country adjacent to the valley of the Nile in lower Egypt being generally level, with a small descent towards the sea, and not much elevated above the river; it was found practicable to take the water out of the river at many places in the upper part of the valley by canals, which, owing to the gradual descent of the country, were made to diverge considerably from the ancient valley in lower Egypt, and by various collateral branches afforded the means of irrigating and rendering highly productive, a large portion of the country which was before a sandy desert.

In China, the principal commercial cities are situated nearly in a line from north to south, parallel to the sea coast; and as the general course of the navigable rivers is from west to east, intersecting the principal line of commercial intercourse at right angles, the Chinese at a very early period began to open an artificial navigation by means of canals, in the line of trade. The grand trunk from Peking to Canton is with its windings about 920 miles long, and 120 feet wide, and 4 m this trunk there are numerous branches in all directions.

The aggregate length of the canals and artificial river navigations in China, is about 5,000 miles; and the particular management of the waters has been recorded in books for the last 1800 years.

In India, there are some canals, which like those in Egypt were constructed principally for the purpose of irrigation; but are also used as channels of commercial intercourse.

In the region of Delhi, there was a considerable tract of country which was barren and uninhabited, because there was no water; until a prince of greater observation and less indolence than his predecessors, constructed a canal about 60 miles long, from the river Jumna through this barren tract towards his capital.

In Italy, the aggregate length of the canals is about 650 miles, besides a great number of small rivers which are rendered navigable by means of dams, locks and sluices. The first lock was made by a Venetian in 1681; and prepared to that time the boats in canals were propelled with great difficulty and some danger, from one level to another by means of inclined planes.

England exhibits the most astonishing proofs of patient industry in the construction of hydraulic works. The whole expense of these works is estimated at 300,000,000 pounds sterling; and if we deduct three fourths of this amount for the expense of constructing the dykes, canals, &c., the balance would be sufficient to make 1000 miles of canal at 300,000 per mile.

Germany, the total length of the canals is about 100 miles.

In Prussia, about 120 miles. In Russia, about 200 miles. In Sweden about 200 miles. In Denmark, about 50 miles, which is the length of the Huel-tein canal. It is 100 feet wide at the top, 54 feet at the bottom, and 10 feet deep; it is navigated by sea vessels, about 2,500 of which pass annually.

In England, there are 113 canals, the aggregate length of which is more than 2,450 miles including 33 1/4 miles of tunnels; having 15,000 feet rise and fall, and requiring 1500 locks at 10 feet lift. The artificial river navigation, rail ways and inclined planes, are supposed to be equal in the total length to the canals.

In the year 1759, the Duke of Bridge water commenced the first regular canal in England. It is 45 3/4 miles long including 3 1/4 of a mile under ground in its coal-mines at Worsley, and is carried on one level at great expense, except where it locks down to the Mersey 82 feet. The tunnel in the hill is 6 feet wide and 5 feet high, expanding at several places for boats to pass, and is arched with brick, where there is not rock or coal, having several air shafts to the top of the hill, in some places 110 feet. This canal crosses the river 17 feet above the water in the river, admitting vessels to pass under it with their masts standing.

In Scotland, there are seven canals, the aggregate length of which is 133 1/2 miles, the whole rise and fall 1,019 feet with 123 locks. The Caledonian canal is 21 1/2 miles long, (exclusive of the lakes which occupy 38 1/2 miles of its course) 170 feet wide at the top, 50 feet wide at the bottom and 20 feet deep. It has 29 locks from 170 to 180 feet long, 40 feet wide and 20 feet deep. This canal is carried on an embankment 400 yards into the sea to obtain a sufficient depth of water, having a basin 907 by 162 yards, and in dimensions and workmanship the greatest canal in the world.

In Ireland, the whole extent of the canals is about 206 miles, rise and fall 894 feet, with 109 locks.

In America, we shall not look for the splendid monuments of art which adorn the eastern continent, but the specimens which are already exhibited, prove that we are not following at an immeasurable distance, and may one day dispute the palm with the proudest of our predecessors.

The Middlesex canal from the Merrimack river to Boston harbour, was begun in 1790 and opened in 1804. It is 29 3/4 miles long, 24 feet wide and 3 feet deep, having 13 locks 90 feet by 12 of excellent masonry. It has 4 aqueducts with stone abutments & piers; one one hundred feet long and 10 feet high, one 110 feet long and 16 feet high, one 120 feet long and 30 feet high, & one 141 feet long and 35 feet high. 50 bridges with stone abutments, one semicircular basin of 200 feet diameter and 11 deep.

In the course of the canal there is one embankment 80 rods long and 25 feet high, one embankment 30 rods across a meadow gradually sunk 60 feet before it stopped, & a cut 800 feet long, 17 feet wide and 7 feet deep through a granite rock. The expense of transporting a ton through the canal is \$3 50, of which \$1 70 is toll, and \$1 80 freight.

This canal cost the proprietors \$170,000. The New-York canal from Lake Erie to the Hudson river is a noble undertaking I have not the report of the commissaries before me, and cannot describe it particularly; but that report is in the hands of many.

It would be absurd for the citizens of one part of the country to find fault with those of another, because they happened to live where the ground was most favourable for the construction of a canal. Our state is rapidly advancing to a high rank in the confederacy; and we shall be unworthy of her, if we do, or suffer any thing to retard her progress.

From the Boston Medical Intelligence. Cautions to sedentary people, and to those whose habits endanger their health.—Medicine, like all other things, is resolvable in a plain matter of common sense. Every body can do much in preventing sickness; nothing exceeds the pleasure of relieving it; but that of preventing it: in provident anticipation of it, a physician shows more force of mind and efficacy of his art.

Distention of the stomach and bowels, indigestion, acid, stilly, putrescent evacuations, indicating acetous fermentation, immediately arise from indigestion of food. If these are habitual, the whole digestive organs become disordered, the mouth clammy, tongue furred, especially in the morning, a laxative effect results. The sufferer is apt to be thirsty, his appetite impaired, variable; he is cold, he is occasionally weak, finds it difficult at all times to command his attention, has perplexed dreams, sometimes nightmare, is alarmed, occasionally despondent, anxiety and depression gradually ingross his attention, the dejections deviate from the healthy appearance, the stomach is apt to be oppressed after eating, diarrhoea often follows, then constiveness, needing medicine more active than before; pains of the stomach, often of the bowels, burning, weight, nausea, great loss of strength, despondency, hardly equalled in any other disease; feelings of endless variety in various parts.

To eat moderately and slowly is one of greater consequence than any other rule of diet. Appetite enough should remain to leave free the functions of body and mind. He who is lazy, sleepy, soon after a meal, has taken too much.—Weakly people, when they exceed their usual meal, feel dejection, anxiety, weight at the stomach, indigestion, wandering, pain, disturbed sleep, sense of suffocation, nervous affections; sleep late, wake tired, yawning, have no appetite; become cheerful, hungry, when their stomach has become lightened, eat heartily, and suffer as before. That a generous diet is necessary to support their strength, is a general error with the subjects of almost all chronic diseases.

The most common cause of morbid distention of the stomach is eating too fast. Appetite subsides only in proportion as the food absorbs the digestive force of the stomach. If we eat slowly, if time is given for the absorption to take place, appetite abates before the stomach is over charged. If a meal be interrupted ten or fifteen minutes after no more than a third of the usual quantity is taken, the person is satisfied. A few mouthfuls taken a little before dinner often destroy the appetite.

When we eat too fast, food is not duly chewed and mixed with saliva; does not undergo the first process of digestion; excites thirst. Another cause of over distention is high seasoning various food, such as particularly pleases the palate: we are induced to eat in proportion to an effect of wine drunk during dinner.

Not intermixed are the feelings produced by hunger, and by the means which please the palate, that when desire to eat is constantly renewed by a succession of different kinds of food, we cannot judge by what we have enough. Artificial appetite is excited at the expense of subsequent debility. It is unkind to urge friends to take meats, spices, acids, fruits, coffee, cordials; but a sumptuous table is hospitality; prodigality is munificence, grandeur!

Whatever in moderate quantity agrees with the stomach, may be presumed wholesome to that individual. Food is whole some or unwholesome only as it is more or less adapted to the present state of the digestive organs.

A moderate, deliberated meal is digested, probably, in three hours, then the stomach is empty, beginning to rest; it should rest till its power is restored; i. e. till appetite returns for simple food. When digestive power is impaired, as much time is needed, if the food is proportioned in quantity and digestibility to the power. According as this is weak it is likely to be promoted by abstinence even to a sensation of want. We should wait for appetite, not tempt it.

Meats which are most mixed with fat are caet par most oppressive. The lean part of venison is perhaps the most digestible food. Few things are more hard of digestion than new bread. Healthy people have but little thirst. Drinking at meals, to assist digestion, is most erroneous; we should not yield to slight thirst; when it is considerable, drink moderately, deliberately. Frequent drinking dilutes the stomach's digestive fluid. To daily use of two or three glasses of wine, inflammation of the digestive organs seems sometimes owing, often confounded under the terms bilious, dyspeptic, nervous, &c. People, addicted to spirits, generally become pale, often emaciated, more or less paralytic; both are subject to debility of stomach, obstructed liver, dropsy; the latter soon, and in them they make most rapid progress.

Prof. Adam Ferguson was very often invited to dinners and parties; ate heartily, drank more than a bottle of wine very often. When first taken ill, at 50 years of age, he had good health; that morning it was bleak, he made a fatiguing excursion into the country, returned just before dinner very much chilled, went to dine with a party, ate and drank in his usual manner. A few hours after one side was paralyzed, he was confused, sight perverted, pulse quick. He was bled immediately, used laxatives, and strict, low diet. By his 73d year, all paralytic symptoms disappeared; his health excited admiration. Since his attack he tasted no meat till 1812, drank nothing but tea, milk; broth or water, took nothing after tea time. Whenever he ventured to use more nourishing, stimulating food he soon had full pulse, hot restless nights.—His only medicines were laxatives, almost daily. When he suffered from cold they seemed especially to promote recovery. During the 19 following years, making 43 from his attack, his remarkable health continued till six years before death; even then nobody would have suspected he had ever been paralytic or paralytic. His mind was almost entire as in his younger days; his functions except sight were scarcely impaired; 1812 he began to take a little meat. For six years he had not been in better health and spirits than during the winter 1815 to Feb. 1819; then his bowels had been irregular two days; pulse 100, he was febrile, slightly delirious, and almost incessant bilious vomiting; was considerably relieved, under free evacuation of his bowels; died Feb. 23, at 83.

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Food. Excess, chiefly, irritates the stomach and poisons even the wholesomest food. In health, to guard against excess, infinitely more attention is needed, than minute discrimination in choice of food. Excess of proper food produces more disorder than does the exceptional quality of any article of food. In taking food, we should attend to the first feeling of satiety; a month after the first feeling of appetite ceases it is excess.

Indigestion, the most varied of diseases, begins from simple, apparently unimportant decisions, from health, gradually becomes complicated disease, it finally organizes every function; it is an affection of the bowels, capable of variously influencing each remote part through many channels.

Michigan. Extract of a letter from a gentleman in New-England, who has recently returned from exploring the Michigan Territory. On my first visit to Michigan, in 1813, the country even in the vicinity of Detroit, was very imperfectly known.

General Cass, who visited Detroit, in 1816, with a view of settling the question as to the location of the army lands, he cast his eye from an elevation over a comparative ocean of woods, apparently on a level, and as there is a deep morass in the vicinity of Detroit, the necessary inference was, that the whole country was drowned land—and yet Detroit was always a healthy place—especially since the "New City" has been laid out into spacious streets crossing at right angles, on the plan of Philadelphia. From that delusive impression, the country was abandoned in the view of locating the army lands—fortunately for its future population.

In 1818, several enterprising citizens of Detroit, who were deeply interested in the cause, including the honorable Governor, Cass, along with their packs, and in separate exploring parties, they traversed the country in different directions—and to their surprise, they found a very fine country of rich waving land, generally scattered trees, remarkably free from underbrush, especially in that part of the country now composing Oakland and Macomb counties.

In a word, the face of the country resembles Ontario county (N. Y.) in its early state, being interspersed with beautiful small lakes, ponds, and running streams, and is remarkably healthy. I am fully persuaded that no part of the interior of N America, ever held out such powerful allurements to young men ambitious to grow with the growth of the country, as the Territory of Michigan. Aside from the beauty of the country, and the great commercial and agricultural advantages it possesses, it is washed on three sides by inland seas accessible to ships; and these considerations as soon as the grand canal shall be completed, in 1824, from Erie to Albany, the produce of Michigan will find its way to that city, at a less rate than formerly from Utica. It abounds also with the finest fisheries in the world; and Detroit lies midway between the vast inland ocean, and must at no great distance of time, become a great commercial city, and the emporium between the western and eastern waters.

Detroit is truly beautiful, and its entrance from the west end of Lake Erie is spacious. Old orchards of excellent fruit, line the shores on both sides; as it was settled by the French as early as New England. The river is also studded with several islands—approaching the city by water, it resembles Philadelphia in miniature.

As a road is now about being made, under the sanction of a law of the U. States, through the black swamp, a distance of 64 miles, which will open the flood gates of emigration from the populous state of Ohio Besides, the tide of emigration is setting in a rapid and increasing current from the east, particularly from the state of N. York.—I noticed every vessel and even the steam boat, crowded with passengers; and the roads lined in every direction. From the town of Marcellus alone, I was credibly informed, that forty families will remove to Michigan the present season. I have no doubt it will become a state in 3 years; as settlers can now select their farms from the United States lands, at one twenty-five an acre.

Michigan owes much to its intelligent & enterprising governor, who may be justly pronounced the father of the country, and is universally beloved by all classes of citizens. The urbanity of his manners, the soundness of his intellect, and his great literary acquirements, command the veneration and respect of an entire community.—Some governors, as well as kings, are a blessing, while others are a curse to the human race. Yours, &c.

FRANKLIN, 74. Extract of a letter from an officer on board the United States ship Franklin 74, dated Valparaiso, March 10th, 1823. We are all heartily sick of the coast, but presume we must bear with patience, yet another year. Our first step from here after you sailed, was to convoy the ship Canton to Arica, and Quilca, which ports were in a declaration of blockade; but which the Commodore did not see proper to respect. At Arica we witnessed a fight between the troops ashore, and a Patriot sailor—the latter was obliged to cut her cable and stand off, with loss. From this we sailed to Quilca, and completed the sale of the Canton's cargo. On the 4th of July we gave a dinner, to which seventy persons attended. The guests consisted of the officers of the Canton, a French merchant ship, (being the only vessels there, and the rest of the number was made up by ladies and gentlemen from Arica, (a city 90 miles in the interior,) and the officers, civil and military, of the port; which, by the bye is nothing more than a small niche in the rocks, where goods can be landed, there being not the least shelter for shipping: Here we lay six weeks, rolling the lower deck parts in, and, but for the lively vivacity of the girls, who came upon miles from the city to visit us, I know not what we should have done.

The coast presents the most rugged and barren prospect I ever saw; but nothing can exceed the fertility of the interior. Many of the ladies who came to see us, had never before seen the ocean—much less a vessel. But the grandeur of the view was represented in such glowing colors, that a number of more than sixty years of age performed the journey to the coast, during which it is necessary to pass from extreme heat to extreme cold. Their feelings of admiration and surprise cannot be described. Mrs Stewart was called the Anglo American—requien habitois de Arica, y puede decir cosas entonstas.—By the Anglo American lady, who spoke all tongues, and could play all instruments, she could relate to you many anecdotes of her portion to the country, and say something of the wisdom of their politicians in opposing the army of that part of Peru, called independent, but perhaps it might not be interesting in the relation; suffice it to say that they are Royalists, and the reasons they give for choosing to remain so, are, that their neighbors who call themselves independent, are more miserable than they are, and they say they like no exchange except for the latter. Their politicians are extended, saying we had experienced from the Patriotes, or even anticipated from so savage a race.

From this place we sailed to Callao, where we lay some months, hence back to Quilca with a cargo, and then to Arica.

From a late London paper. Last week, the curiosity and attention of the ploughmen on the farms of Ingleson and Kirkland, in the parish of Kelton, stewards of Kirkcubright, were drawn towards a large hawk, which frequently hovered around them, from observing that his flight was accompanied with a hissing noise, like that of small bells. At one time he was seen pursuing a fox throughout his course; and it was immediately concluded that he must be a trained falcon; but as none are now kept in the country, it could not be imagined whence he might have come. Though the people were anxious to gratify their curiosity by getting hold of him, they had too much generosity, and too much regard for such a singular falcon, to think of shooting him; and though he did not seem to feel quite so strong an apprehension of danger from the human race as his species commonly do in their natural state, he always kept at such a distance, as to render their efforts to take him ineffectual.

On Saturday last, however, he was found lying dead, near a large rookery in Kirkland, the inhabitants of which, it is supposed, had killed him, either on the presumption of evil intention; or perhaps on the more legal grounds of some overt act of violence. To each leg a small bell was suspended by a silver ring, on which was engraven "John Sinclair, Bellist;" and he measured between the tips of the wings, when extended, 3 feet 6 inches. The manner in which he is supposed to have met his death, which is not improbable, but my youth, which is the country, has frequently witnessed the fact, that when a hawk or glede was chasing a small bird, and my feelings were wrought up to the most painful anxiety for its fate, two or three crows would suddenly interfere, attack the aggressor, and chasing him quite out of sight, relieve both the poor bird and myself from our distress. What, then, may we not suppose such a number to do, when aroused by well-grounded suspicion, or some open act of hostility, at a period to them so interesting as that of incubation.

ANNAPOLIS, FOURTH JULY, 1823. 4th Anniversary of American Independence. At an early hour many citizens and strangers collected at Col. L. Duval's Garden, and at 2 o'clock sat down to a plentiful dinner prepared on this occasion; when the following toasts were drunk, and many patriotic songs sung.—All was harmony and good fellowship—the day was spent to the satisfaction of all present.

1. This Day—the Birth Day of American Independence—a Jubilee for Americans—it gladdens and cheers the true republican and alarms tyrants.

2. The United States—a chain that the alliances of tyrants and crowned heads cannot injure or break.

3. Our Native State—many years too late in her internal improvements; her soil sheers appear to be over, may rapid strides be made towards improvement.

4. The 13th of July as celebrated—a nice and important example to their offspring.

5. The memory of General George Washington—in him there was virtue and patriotism; glittering example, may our great men be good men.

6. The memory of the departed heroes of the revolution—their blood and valour obtained for us the privilege of this celebration, uninterrupted by tyrants and monarchs.

7. The memory of the departed officers, non-commissioned officers and privates of the late war—they played the second time to the honour and glory of their country.

8. Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, the survivors of the signers of the declaration of independence.

9. The President of the United States.

10. The Heads of Departments.

11. The Judiciary.

12. The American Navy.

13. Peace with the world on honorable terms, not a war.

14. The best man for the next President—So good an example being set, a bad man only would tempt to harm the people.

15. Manufacturers—May they soon supercede the necessity of importing foreign trash.

16. Manufacturers—much depends on themselves—may they do what is right.

17. The cultivators of the soil—their success benefits all classes.

18. The true republican—the safe protector of our constitutional rights and privileges.

19. The constituted authorities of the state of Maryland.

20. Our friends wherever they be.

21. Peace, harmony, and unanimity on terms honourable to all.

22. Our home.

23. The Stars and Stripes now in view, lofly displayed at the State House Spire—may we always do it honour.

24. The Fair Sex as virtuous as fair—may each find a friend and protector.

VOLUNTEER TROOP. By Major Cook, Major General, Scott, the wife of the plow, of Chappin.

By William A. H. H. The Metropolitan of Maryland—may her plowmen rise in their strength on the first Monday in October, and may she strike the hopes of the tyrant and promoting office hunters.

By Saml. H. Johnson, General George Washington—may his plowmen rise in their strength on the first Monday in October, and may she strike the hopes of the tyrant and promoting office hunters.

By Mr. Johnson, May the freedom of America be the heritage of the virtuous.

ANAPOLIS, Thursday, July 10, 1823. THE FOURTH OF JULY was celebrated in this city with more than ordinary spirit.

COURT OF APPEALS. Wednesday, July 9. The argument in Scott vs. Burch's Adm'r. D. B. N. was continued by Key and Magruder, for the appellants.

Thursday, July 9. The argument in Scott vs. Burch's Adm'r. D. B. N. was concluded by Key and Magruder, for the appellants.

Friday, July 9. The case of Snowden's Exor's et al. vs. Dorcy et al. on a motion to dismiss the appeal as having been improperly made, was argued by Dorcy, (Attorney-General,) for the appellants, and by Shaw and Magruder for the appellees.

Saturday, July 9. The argument on the motion to dismiss the appeal in Snowden's Exor's et al. vs. Dorcy et al. was continued by Magruder for the appellants, and concluded by Toney for the appellees, in reply.

The case of Duval vs. The State, was argued by Toney for the plaintiff in error, and by Dorcy (Attorney-General,) for the state.

Monday, July 7. The case of Martin vs. McKensie et al. was argued by Hinder for the appellant, and by Murray for the appellees. The writ of error in Andrew et al. vs. W. & J. Bailey, was on motion of Murray for the defendants in error, quashed by the court—John son for the plaintiff's in error.

The case of Bend vs. The Susquehanna Bridge & Bank Company, was argued by Johnson for the plaintiffs in error, and by Murray for the defendants in error.

Tuesday, July 8. EAST. J. delivered the opinion of the court in Dunhill, et al. vs. The Attorney General, in relation of the Trustees of Hillsborough School in Caroline county, argued at June term, 1822. Decree reversed.

BUCHANAN, J. delivered the opinion of the court in Hamilton vs. Craig. Judgment reversed.

EAST, J. delivered the opinion of the court in The State vs. Rogers vs. Krebs, et al. Guardians of Horne. Argued at June term, 1822. Decree reversed, and judgment entered for the appellants.

BUCHANAN, J. delivered the opinion of the court in Cromwell, et al. vs. et al. vs. Owens. Decree reversed.

The case of Drury, et al. vs. et al. vs. Conner, et al. was argued by Scott and Toney, for the appellants, and by Brewer, Jr. and Magruder, for the appellees.

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