ervations, confiding, that in the main, that they will be found conformable with your own opinions—and I pray you, sir, to receive cordially the assurances of that personal esteem, and high consideration with which,

I have the honor to be,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) JOHN F. MERCER.

His Excellency, Thomas M'Kean Governor of Pennsylvania.

STAR,
OR,
E'n. Shore General Advertiser.

EASTON, Tuesday Morning
April 5, 1803.

☞ The northern mail had not arrived when this paper was put to press.

Those subscribers to the Star who reside at a distance, and stand indebted for the same, will have an opportunity of transmitting their several arrearages by persons attending the General Court, which will take place in a few days.—Persons who neglect to embrace this opportunity, or the one through the Post Office, can have but little regard to their own punctuality, or the many inconveniences to which the editor is subjected to on their account.

We have received Goveneur Morris' speech in the Senate of the United States, on the prohibition of the deposit of American produce at Louisiana; and to use his own language "This I believe is the last scene of my public life"—and in another sentence, says, "Yes, my noble friends, [addressing himself to the federal senators near him] we shall soon part to meet no more;" and as we have not the smallest objection to exhibit to the readers of the Star the "last scene" of Mr. Morris, we shall commence the publication of his speech (which is lengthy), as soon as room will permit; and that they have parted "to meet no more" in them walls, to heap on the country burthensome taxes, standing armies, useless officers, &c. ought to be the wish of every friend to American liberty.

From a Paris paper of February 1.

Mr. Jefferson, president of the United States, has addressed the following letter to the National Institute of France:—

I have received a letter, in which you have the goodness to announce to me, that the National institute of the arts and sciences have elected me a foreign associate for the class of moral and political sciences. I receive this favor with a degree of sensibility equal to the respect which a body of *silvans* of the highest character naturally inspires. Without pretending to any claim to the title of one of their colleagues, I accept it as a proof of the spirit of fraternity, which unites in one family all who cultivate science and letters, whatever part of the world they inhabit.

Accept for yourselves, citizens, president and secretaries, and for your colleauges, the assurance of my high consideration and respect.

TH: JEFFERSON.

Washington, March 14, 1802.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.
Wednesday, Feb. 22.

Mr. Marshal, from the committee appointed on the 17th instant on the governor's communication of the 16th, relative to an act of the legislature of Maryland, which contemplates the making a turnpike road from Fort Cumberland, in the state of Maryland, to the western side of the Laurelhill, at or near Uniontown in this state; also suggesting the extension of the term for receiving subscriptions, by the company incorporated for the purpose of cutting a canal between the river Delaware and the Chesapeake-bay, made a report, which was read as follows, to wit:

That they have given the subjects committed to them a due and deliberate consideration, and are of opinion that it will promote the interest of the state to co-operate with the state of Maryland, in executing the contemplated turn-pike road; and also, that it will be proper to extend the time for receiving subscriptions by the canal company above mentioned; they therefore submit the following resolutions, viz.

1. Resolved, That a committee be appointed to bring in a bill, authorizing the governor to incorporate a company, who, in conjunction with a company already incorporated by the legislature of Maryland, may be authorized to execute the contemplated turn-pike road from Fort Cumberland to the western side of the Laurilhill, at or near Union-town.

2. Resolved, That a committee be appointed to bring in a bill, extending the time for receiving subscriptions, by the company incorporated for the purpose of perfecting a communication by means of a canal between the river Delaware and Chesapeake bay and

On motion, the said report was read the second time, and the resolutions severally adopted; and, ordered, that Messrs. Marshall, Porert and Kerr, be a committee for the purpose expressed in the first resolution: and that Messrs. Pearson, Harrison and T. Davis be a committee for the purpose expressed in the second resolution.

Some of the southern papers contains a marvellous account, of an attack alleged to have been made on a British ship by lieutenant Sterett, in the United States sloop of war Enterprize, in which (it is related) sixty of the English crew were killed. The story is false in every particular but the following—a British merchantman being met off the Barbary coast by the Enterprize, refused to hoist her colors, upon which the Enterprize threw a shot across her, and still persisting in not shewing colors, a shot was thrown in such a way to indicate a determination to make her shew whether she was or was not a pirate, and with success. The British skipper complained at Gibraltar of this act of compulsion—and received in return a severe reprimand for not shewing his colors; but not a shot was fired into the ship, and of course the 60 killed were mere men in buckram.

Aurora.

On Friday morning 25th ult. citizens old and young, rich and poor, shouldered their guns, and took to the out-skirts of the city, in quest of extensive flocks of pidgeons that flew in clouds over it in every direction. The skirmishing of two armies was nothing in comparison to the popping all around of different parties continually scouting, who returned in the evening loaded with the fruits of their campaign. It is estimated that no less than 10,000 pidgeons have been killed within ten miles around the city.

[*Baltimore Telegraphe*]

From the BALANCE.

EULOGY ON GEESE.

Messrs. EDITORS,

Afflicted as I sometimes am, with that scorbutic disease, the itch for appearing in print, I have been puzzling my brain, two whole hours, to find a subject for your *Balance;* when, at last, one was fortunately suggested to me, by happening to fix my eyes attentively on my *pen*, which I was all this time holding in my hand. Among all the subjects, which have engaged the attention of the learned, I do not remember to have seen an eulogy on *geese:* be this, then, my theme; and I doubt not, but it will appear, in the sequel of this discussion, that, excepting the cow and the sheep, there is no living creature upon earth, below the rank of man, which is of so much use and importance as the goose. Were I disposed to pursue this momentous subject in its various details, I might quote the story of the Roman historian, which relates that imperial Rome itself was once saved from the fangs of an invading foe by the cackling of a goose; I might expatiate on the delicious flesh of this feathered animal, and especially on the unequalled delicacy of its *down*, that fills the pillow upon which the lovely Chloe lays her head. I might also bring into view the laudable obsequiousness of geese manifested in their implicitly following their *file-leader;* likewise their scientific skill, which has been evinced by their ærial voyages, sometimes of a thousand miles, without the help of the magnetic needle, or a quadrant. But waving these topics, I shall confine myself to the *quill*, that this creature sheds for the use of man, and which more than any other instrument, promotes human intelligence.

Hail, goose-quill! while I am holding thee in my hand, I will describe and proclaim thy worth. But for *thee*, in vain had Faustus invented the art of printing. But for *thee*, fair science would famish, or would be monopolized, as of old, by a few.

The world had been inhabited almost five thousand years, before the inestimable worth of the goose-quill was discovered. The old Romans used a bodkin, made of metal or some other hard substance, for a pen; and they wrote on tables covered with wax. Hence, a famous code of their laws, which were engraven in this manner, was called "*the twelve tables.*" This kind of a pen was also used by the ancient Arabians, and Hebrews. Job, who was probably an Arabian, and lived as early or earlier than the time of Moses, speaks of graving with "a pen of iron." Jeremiah said, "the sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond; it is graven upon the table of their hearts." This had an undoubted reference to their manner of writing, like the Romans, on waxen tables, and with a pen made of iron or a sharpened piece of a diamond. It was also with reference to this, that Soloman commanded his pupil to write his precepts "upon the table of his heart." That ancient mode of writing, which must have been very inconvenient and slow, was superceded by the use of colored liquids, or ink; when the pen of iron gave place to the *calamus*, a kind of reed that grew in Egypt, but the best sort, in the southern provinces of Persia. These reeds were split and sharpened to a point. Nor was it till some time in the seventh century of the christian era, that some happy genius hit upon the discovery of making pens from the quills of geese.—This, I scruple not to declare, as it respects the republic of letters, was among the most important discoveries which have been made by man. Writing has since been rendered unspeakably more easy; and the world has been furnished with a plentiful and cheap supply of pens.

Goose-quills are among the real necessaries of life. They are used in almost every kind of business. They are the prop and promoters of science. Without their aid the wheels of business would be obstructed; printing-presses would be struck with a dead palsy; and the arts and sciences would sink speedily toward the state of savage barbarism. The horse is a fine creature, and much has been said and sung in praise of this noble animal: but were horses to be struck out of existence, it might perhaps be less calamity to man than the extinction of the race of geese.

Hail, inestimable bird! what are the gay plumage of the peacock, and the delicious notes of the nightengale, in comparison with the value of thy quills!

The eagle, that pierces the clouds and wings her daring flight toward heaven, was, by the ancient Greeks and Romans, consecrated to Jupiter. The grave and moody-looking bird, the owl, was supposed to be the favorite of Minerva, the Goddess of Wisdom. In those days of superstition and idolatry, if the full worth of the goose had been known, it might perhaps have been generally worshipped, as was the Apis or ox in Egypt.

A KNIGHT OF THE GOOSE-QUILL.

A very important, and no less singular than important occurrence took place at the Cape of Good Hope, previous to the sailing of the ship Portsmouth, which arrived on the 15th instant, and it is not a little surprising that it should not have transpired sooner to the public. We have it upon the very best authority, that although the Dutch governor was by capitulation to have had possession of the Cape on the 1st of January, the British troops had, notwithstanding, possession of the place at the time of the Portsmouth's sailing.

The circumstances were these: The commander of the British forces had proposed that the Dutch governor should take possession of the forts and works on the 20th December. As, however, the first day of the new-year was at hand, the latter preferred postponing it to that day, expecting probably, that the festivity of the moment would give an eclat to his new government among the people. In the mean time the British troops to the number of 1600 had all embarked, except one company left on shore as a rear guard and to take care of the works till the Dutch, who were then landing to the number of 2500, should march into them. As fate would have it, however, on the night of the 31st December, a vessel arrived with dispatches from England, enjoining it upon general Dundas, if he had not surrendered the place to the Dutch, to retain possession of it. A great bustle immediately took place in the fleet, and early in the morning of the first of January, the day when the Dutch troops were to have entered the works, the British troops were seen debarking with all the expedition in their power, and marching with fixed bayonets back again to the fortifications, of which took possession, and kept out the Dutch.—This manœuvre occasioned, it may be supposed, no small consternation to the Dutch governor, whose imprudent procrastination may be attended with the final loss of the colony to his country.

How far this occurrence may have connexion with the recent declaration of war by Algiers against France, and be the precursor of a renewal of hostilities in Europe, is left to the speculation of our readers. [*Fed. Gaz.*]

HISTORICAL.

CONCISE DESCRIPTION OF LAKE SUPERIOR.

This immense Lake, or rather inland ocean, is said to be the largest body of fresh water in America, if not in the known world.

It approaches nearer the form of a square than any of the largest lakes on this continent, and has a coast, of more than sixteen hundred miles. The greatest part of the coast, however, is bounded by mountaneous and rocky land, and the lakes upon a vast bed of rocks, which, at a certain season, from the limpid clearness of the water, may be seen at a great depth, huge, vast and irregular; in some places exhibiting an appearance of having been hewn, inclining the spectator to believe that large cities have been sunk by some convulsion of nature, of whose foundation these were the remains.

In the summer time, the water constituting the superfices of the lake is tolerably warm; but if you take up to the depth of only one fathom, it is equally cold with the ice; the long continuance and extremity of the winter's cold prevailing on the temperature of the waters over the short and transient heat of the summer atmosphere.

Lake Superior is, in extent, about two hundred and ninety English miles from north to south, and about three hundred and sixty miles in length from east to west; the 48th deg. N: lat. passing thro' the middle of the lake, and its westward extremity in 39 deg. 30 min. W. lon. from the meridian of London.

This includes several fine islands, the undisturded haunts of the native quadrupeds of the forest, secluded from other parts of America by the vast extent of the lake, and far out of view of all other land. These islands seem never to have boen inhabited by men; a superstitious notion having prevailed among the Indian nations that they are haunted by invisible powers, inimical to the race of man, avenging with the utmost severity every attempt to penetrate these lonely forests.

One of the islands (Royale) is at least one hundred miles in length, and about forty-five in breadth. Maureapas is something less; both are covered with thick woods, and inhabited by deer, foxes, rabbits and a few other quadrupeds. How these came there is a question not easy to be solved, unless we suppose, with some free philosophers, that the earth itself is alike productive of vegetable and animal life.

The water, in a large extent of this lake, is eighty or ninety fathoms deep, and in some places it is said to be unfathomable. The navigation is equally if not more hazardous than that of the Atlantic; the waves swelling to a vast height in gale of wind, and at the same time so short, that it is difficult for a vessel to rise them. Fish abound here, particularly sturgeon and trout, which grows to a size unknown in the more eastern parts of the United States. Many rivers empty into Lake Superior, of which, two are very large, on the north east, and are partly discharged through St. Mary's Streights into Lake Huron, and partly through subterraneous passages.

Notwithstanding the pretended influence of the moon upon the waters of the great ocean, so as to occasion tide, she is found to occasion no such influence over the waters of Lake Superior; which she surely would have to a sensible degree, if there were any truth in the Newtonian theory of the tides. There is a gradual swell, however in the lake, which rises to about three or four inches in seven years and an half, and in the same space of time, again falls gradually to its former level: nearly the same thing is observed of the Caspian Sea in Asia.

The following extract is taken from an eminent Literary Journal, now published in London.

AMERICAN NEWS-PAPERS.

"In America no excise has been laid upon papers, nor has the stamping of newspapers, as yet, been resorted to in order to raise a governmental revenue. The eagerness of the American people for news is insatiable, and gazettes are published not only in seaports and large towns, but in almost every village in the interior parts of the country. The number of these sheets which issue from the respective presses once, twice, thrice and six times a week, is incredible. As usual, they contain foreign and domestic intelligence, ship news and advertisements; but as elections are very frequent in America, and there takes place a competition between the rival candidates, the newspapers are resorted to on such occasions to discuss their merits and demerits, when all the political questions of the day are canvassed with wonderful keenness and acrimony; calumny, slander, and the grossest abuse are therefore exceedingly abundant in American newspapers, in which the licentiousness of the press is carried to a greater extent than in any country in the world. The different parties which divide the politics of the country, attack each other in these publications with unexampled asperity and virulence. Venality, corruption and peculation are common charges against public men and the most reputable characters. Cunning, duplicity, and every species of depravity are ascribed to each party by their opponents—atheism and deism, philosophism and illuminatism, are crimes attributed to one party, who retort upon their adversaries the charges of bigotry, superstition, hypocrisy and priestcraft!—To a foreigner who reads their gazettes, it would appear, that the rancour and intollerance of party politics raged with uncontroled fury, had subverted every idea of decency and good manners, and that the social state of republican America was poisoned by the unbridled abuse of the press. These violent and inflammatory publications, not only indicate the bitter and furious spirit of individuals, but must have a contaminating effect on the public mind—they must have an influence on the people who read them, and contribute in no small degree, to foment and increase the unsocial and malevolent passions, engender hostility, and destroy domestic tranquility—such gross licentiousness disgrace the American character, is subversive of true liberty, and must, in the end, annihilate their political existence."

ANY person having timber to fall this spring, and no convenience of securing the bark, the subscriber will undertake to save it and give them a reasonable compensation for the same. A generous price will also be given for well cured tan bark.

WM. ATKINSON.

April 5, 1803. tf

JOHN STEVENS, JUNR.
Apothecary & Druggist,
Next door to the New Market-house, and fronting Dover-street, Easton;
Has just received from Philadelphia and Baltimore, a general assortment of genuine Drugs, Perfumes, Spices, Dyes, Patent Medicines, &c. &c. amongst which are the following, viz.

Aether Vitriol.	Ol. Sem. Anis.
Aloes	—— Caryophyl
Aqua Fortis	—— Juniper
Argent. Viv.	—— Succini
Bals. Canada	—— Menthæ Piper
—— Copaiba	—— Olivar
—— Peru	—— Ricini
—— Tolu	—— Vitriol
Borax	—— Cinnam.
Cantharides	—— Rhodii.
Coccinella	Rad. Caryop. Am
Cort. Aurant.	—— Columb.
—— Cinnam.	—— Gentian
—— Peruvian	—— Jalap
Cræm. Tart.	—— Ipecac.
Ess. Burgamot	—— Rhei
—— Lemon	—— Helleb. Nig.
—— Lavend.	—— Serp. Virg.
—— Marshalle	—— Senek.
Flor. Benzoin	Sacc. Saturn.
—— Chamœm	Succin Glycyrrhiz
—— Sulphur	Sal. Glaub.
—— Zinc	—— Nit. Pur.
Fol. Sennæ	—— Cornu. Cerv.
—— Digital	—— Rochelle
Gran. Paradisi	—— Am. Crud.
Gum. Ammon	—— Lem. Essent.
—— Arabic	—— Prunella
—— Assafœtida	Sapo Casteliens
—— Camphor	Spt. Cornu Cervi.
—— Myrrh	—— Nit. Dulc.
—— Opium	—— Sal. Ammon
—— Gauic.	—— Vol. Aromat
—— Kino	—— Terebinth.
—— Lac	Spongia
Gallæ	Tart. Vit.
Magnesia	Verdegrease
Merc. Cal. Ppt.	Sago
—— Corros. Sub.	Tapeoca
—— Præcip.	Pearl Barley
Ol. Amag. Dulc.	

Orange flower water, Rose water, and Lavender water.

Lancets, vials, gallipots, shop furniture, glass mortars, graduated measures, breast pipes, smelling bottles; and a general assortment of Patent Medicines, with almost every article in the Drug and Medicinal line

ON MODERATE TERMS.

Those who think proper to favor him with their custom, may depend on receiving genuine Medicine.

*** Letters per mail or otherwise duly attended to.

Easton, April 5, 1803.

List of Letters
Remaining in the Post Office at Easton, March 31, 1803.

A.	
Medford Andrews,	Aaron Anthony.
B.	
Chas. Bromwell,	Saml. Baldwin,
David Barrow,	Elizabeth Baily,
John Baker.	
C.	
Edwd. D. Coursey,	Susan Cromwell,
Sarah Collister,	B. Chance,
Wm. Constable,	Joseph Collins.
D.	
Harriet Darnsby,	James Dawson,
Mary Dawson,	Pere. Driver,
Sylvanus Dickinson,	Joseph Douglass.
E.	
Peter Edmondson,	James Earle, 4,
Sarah Edmondson,	Ch. Emory, 2,
F.	
John Fleming, 2	William Flint.
G.	
T. Goldsborough	Ann M'Guire
Dorsey A. Gustis	
H.	
G. R. Hayward, 3	Allen Holms
Jesse Hincks	Saml. Harrington
John Higgins	Wm. Haynes
I & J.	
Henrietta Ingram, 2	John Jenkinson
Thomas Jones	Wm. Jenkinson
K.	
Jesse Kelby	Thomas Kemp
L.	
Abraham Lewis, 4	Solomon Lowe, 2
Nicholas Loveday	James Lloyd
Alexander Laing, 2	
M.	
William Mullican	Anna Martin
N.	
Esther Noney	
O.	
Thomas Ozman	
P.	
Maria Perry, 2	Thos. Pendergast
Joseph Purdin	
R.	
Peter Redhead	Benjamin Ray
Wm. Richardson	William Russum
S.	
Samuel Spencer	Mr. Sherwood
Rich'd Sherwood	Benj. Skinner
John Simmons	James Steele
Thomas Stevens	Francis Sellers
T.	
Joshua Taggart	Rich'd Tilghman
Joseph Toy	Matth. Tilghman
W.	
Cornelius West.	

SEAMEN'S ARTICLES,
AND
A General Assortment of
Magistrates and other Blanks,
FOR SALE
At the STAR OFFICE, EASTON.