

From the Virginia Argus. THE LATE NEWS.

This is the Caput Argol year of England; the year in which the malignant part of her fortune reigns triumphant. A vagrant and fugitive army in Spain and Portugal; a sickening and dying military force, (the remnant of a formidable equipment) pining on the island of Walcheren, at the mouth of the Scheldt; generals disgraced; a ministry distracted by opposite views; the chief men of the cabinet squabbling for power, and terminating their wrangle in a duel; an old king, the sport of a corrupted nobility; and his son heading a party against him; are facts which proclaim the approach of disasters the most terrible; of anarchy; of imbecility, which leads to anarchy; of civil war, and of eventual ruin to the British monarchy. I am not the fabricator of calamitous intelligence; the outline which is here briefly and faintly sketched, is painted in the English prints in gloomy and frightful colors.

At the date of the last advices, the British ministry had been just broken into fragments; Canning and Castlereagh; Portland, and the tribe of swaggering bullies, who bedaubed Bonaparte with their filial abuse through their hireling presses at London; who insulted with their taunting jokes the sincerity of America, are fallen in the dust; their pitiful genius is subdued before that of the conqueror of Europe; they crawl into obscurity, unable any longer to support the dignity of the British empire, and are loaded with the curses of the people of Great-Britain; a people who are oppressed with taxes and every species of imposition that can tend to debase society and render men unhappy. Mr. Percival and his coadjutors (the brainless part of the late ministry) appeared very anxious to secure lord Grenville and earl Grey to their interest; endeavoring, it would seem, to form with the ins and the outs, a coalition administration, which shall be able by its strength to suffice the rising passions of the populace, and profusely squander the last penny that can be coined upon their mortgaged island, and the impoverished subjects of the most criminal of sovereigns. Whether lord Grenville can be eventually bribed into the proffered co-partnership; or whether he will stick for a carte blanche from his Britannic majesty, it is impossible at this moment to determine; at the departure of our last advices he was playing the prude, and imperiously requiring to be ordained political factotum of the day. The return of the marquis Wellesley from Cadiz, whither he had been deputed to cajole the Spaniards, may have some influence in the new arrangements;—he is announced as the friend of Mr. Canning; a precious pair; the one would-be secretary of state for the war and colonial department; the other, premier. In her youthful days England might have borne with the stupid arrogance of a wealthy and profligate nabob, and with the contemptible buffoonery of a jesting mountebank;—but in the hour of decrepitude, abler physicians must be procured to eradicate the poison in her system and heal her wounds, or she inevitably perishes. Is lord Grenville the infallible Doctor? Judging by the past, even under his auspices, if he should enter again into power, the future will be full of woes, and rife with wretchedness for Great-Britain.

In these changes and petty revolutions on the London boards, there is not a solitary incident which can be interpreted as a good omen for America. The flight of the birds (such as Canning and his companions) may, according to the rules of augury, of some of our soothsaying politicians, be construed into a happy prognostic; but if I have any skill in divining, there is nothing which presents itself as a basis for a rational hope that our country will, from the new British ministry, meet with more justice and more good faith than from their predecessors.

Viewing England in her present posture, what a spectacle of commiseration does she offer of the unanimous sympathy of America!

What an object of contempt for Napoleon! The latter, his heart blackened by a thousand villainies, his hands gullied of innumerable cruelties, springing from the lustful, the guilty ambition of his soul, has nevertheless maintained the unity of character, necessary to constitute the hero of a mighty drama; whose scenes and whose sequel are bloody and tremendous; but the mock epic of Canning, and the Portland corps; the swelling, and puffing, and flourishing of the English foreign secretary, which threatened the world with havoc and desolation, has ended as ludicrously as the bombastic farce of Crononhontologos, with a personal quarrel, a pistol shot, and a flesh wound; America, with an arch sneer, might ask this fallen scoffer, if he is the man who lately indulged his ironical vein at the expense of his understanding and to the shame of his government? If he is the man who belied her minister, and who was foiled in the basest of all possible attempts to divide the people of the United States from their rulers? If he is that individual Mr. Canning, who talked of relieving America from the inconveniences of an embargo; and who, in the face of an indignant world, refused to fulfil the solemn engagement of a British ambassador with full powers? But America disdains to use the language of sarcasm, however justifiable. She "looks with an eye of pity on the wretch" who has needlessly lavished the blood of Englishmen in every corner of Europe; and secured nothing to his country but a narrative of disgrace and misfortunes, and to himself the reputation of immortal infamy.

The recent occurrences at London have disturbed the serenity of the honorable Francis James Jackson. This diplomatic rustic is still at George Town, watching the current of events. A perfect John Bull, the abdication of power by his friends at home, has, it is said by his familiars, rendered him more obstinate in his opinions of British superiority than he ever was—even at Copenhagen. He industriously circulates the opinion that Prussia, Russia, and Austria are about to unite against Napoleon, and to crush him by their irresistible force. On this point, however, the political faculty differ most widely. Those who presume upon the resumption of hostilities in Germany, offer no other argument in support of their suggestion than the delay in the conclusion of a treaty between France and Austria,—whilst those whose sentiments are of an opposite cast, contend that the delay is only a proof of the difficulty of adjusting the spoils of the Austrian monarchy—that procrastination in the present posture of Bonaparte, gives him every advantage—and that his withdrawing a large portion of his troops from the north of Europe and sending them to Spain, is peremptory evidence of his being perfectly at ease with respect to his concerns with Austria. I confess to you that I am of the latter opinion. The emperor of the French is not a soldier of a day's growth, nor a man of rash projects. He would not spend his time in treating for peace in Hungary, if he were not very certain of his object, nor would he detach numerous divisions of his forces to the southern extremity of Europe if there was an expectation of danger to his power from the Germanic state—and however dear and necessary the acquisition of Spain may be to him, rely upon it that the establishment of his power beyond the Rhine is still more precious and indispensable.

The gentleman who is the bearer of dispatches from France to the American government does not furnish much intelligence. The silence of the press in that section of the world prevents the promulgation of events as they occur; and it is with the utmost precaution that individuals will suffer themselves even to speak of the political incidents of the day. Men are as diffident of exposing their thoughts in France at this time as they were in the reign of terror during the French revolution. The bayonet has succeeded to the guillotine, and imperial despotism is not more friendly to the propagation of opinions, or to the discussion of popular delirium. Whosoever opens his mouth on a topic relative to the government of the new dynasty, and has the independence to utter criticisms against the race of Napoleon and his actions, is in imminent jeopardy of a dungeon,—where himself and his speculations will be buried, perhaps forever, in the pro-

• Since the above was written, this diplomatic Heer has been dismissed in consequence of his grossly insulting on government by giving the direct to Secretary Smith on the subject of England's Institutions.

foundest oblivion. How much has France sacrificed to the lust of glory, and the phantom renown! Of how many unholy passions has she been the sport! To how many restless and wasteful chiefs the engine of conquest and devastation! On another element her rival has transcended her. After destroying the fleets of every other nation, the navy of Great Britain reigns unrivalled mistress of the ocean. Yet no permanent advantages accrue from such a triumph. Nature has denied to man the possibility of permanent habitations on the seas, and the English have been victorious only to behold themselves the sovereigns of a mutable domain, where no cities, nor towns, nor hamlets, greet the sight; where all is waste, and trackless, and barren, and desolate; where nothing further offers to excite a spirit of avarice or of enterprize; where nothing more presents itself for a contest of valor, nor any thing to gratify the thirst of petty theft or bold-faced plunder.

Don Onis, I am told, has departed hence. May joy cheer the heart of this Iberian messenger; and light up in his thoughts the hope of brighter days for Spain! He could not be received without compromising the neutral character of the United States; a character more valuable at this moment than forty years product of the richest Spanish mines; a character which is not to be loosely committed to the licentious cavils of imperial conquerors, or to the corrupted logic of marauding pirates—and which is to be preserved as long as it is possible to adhere to it. Whosoever person condemns this policy is a foe to the salvation of America.

GUN BOATS.

We have observed of late, under London dates, many instances of the efficacy and execution of gun boats. The noble lord Chatham, testifies to their efficacy at Buzze, near the mouth of the Scheldt. The English gun boats on the coast of Sicily have performed a very brilliant and glorious feat. Admiral Puke, according to late London accounts, had sent a detachment of gun boats against a Russian port, situated on an island in the gulph of Bothnia; and Sir James Saumarez, who must be supposed to know something of the utility of this species of naval force, had taken a fancy to a flotilla of Swedish gun boats, and deemed them of sufficient consequence to be worth sending to England, to have them in safe keeping with the Danish fleet. We likewise hear of his Britannic Majesty's frigate, Alert, having been taken in a calm, off the Scaw, by six Danish gun boats! Facts speak for themselves. Yet we are not going to attempt to prove that a gun boat is as large as a sloop-of-war. English gun boats are no doubt incomparably better than the "scare crew" built on the "Monticello construction."

Saratoga Adc.

PHOENIX INSURANCE.

[The following remarks from the Charleston City Gazette, may not be unsuitable to the meridian of every state legislature in the Union.]

It is a matter of fact that the London Phoenix Company have paid for the renewal of its charter for twenty years, about half a million of guineas. Hence their profit on insurance must be immense. It is a matter of fact that a branch of that company is established in our city, and that it has lost but one house since its establishment. It is a matter of fact, that in the city of London, &c. where the insurance is done much lower than in this city, the insurance companies find and pay for the working engines, buckets, ladders, &c. Is it not a matter of fact, that the citizens of Charleston procure at their own proper expense, all those articles, and that they alone assist in extinguishing fires, and that the whole city may be buried in ashes for any assistance the Phoenix could afford. It is a fact, that immense gain, not love for us, has induced the Phoenix to establish a branch here; and it is also a fact that that gain is procured by the exertions and money of the citizens of Charleston, and that it ought of right to belong to them, and that it is more to their interest to keep this money circulating among themselves than to remit it to John Bull, or to any other nation on earth. It is a matter of fact, that John Bull has been waging a commercial and financial "war in disguise" against this country ever since the revolution—thus making our credulity and folly subservient to our own degradation and her ambition and violence. It is a matter of fact, that the advocates of this British domination are alarmed for the existence of the Phoenix—they are conjuring heaven and earth to oppose your contemplated plan of reciprocal insurance, well knowing that your example will be fatal to British hold and influence on this country. They will use all manner of sophistry, but they may be answered by this simple matter of fact; If the Phoenix did not gain great profit, would they cross the Atlantic to insure us? Is not this profit as well in our own hands as theirs? But your fears will then be attacked, by telling you that fires have occurred here that consumed half of your city, and that it may yet happen. These would be as forcible

arguments to deter the Phoenix from crossing the Atlantic, and yet we see her among us.—These gentlemen will not inform you that when these melancholy accidents took place your city was a mere tinder-box of old wood houses; that you were deficient in every means of extinguishing them, without system or union of action—they will not tell you that on the spots of nearly all these houses, are now erected brick houses covered with tile—they will not tell you that every day is adding new security, arising from various causes; they will not inform you (though ten years experience proves it) that your risks are not by 100 to 1, as great as they were in those days—they will not tell them that, if the reciprocal plan is obtained every citizen will be interested in the preservation of his neighbor's as well as his own property; that a conviction that he is working for himself and fellow-citizens, will make him more alert at fires—they will not tell you that these thirteen commissioners will be men selected from among yourselves, no doubt, for their probity, good sense, and the interest which they must feel, in common with you, in the welfare of our common country and interest.—All these considerations will be carefully kept out of view; your fears will be alarmed by recurrence to musty exaggerated records of great calamities, taking special care to conceal the causes that gave rise to them, which in a great measure cease to have existence and are every day becoming less. Be therefore on your guard, fellow citizens—again propound to them the question, is it for love of us, or for gain, that the Phoenix insures our houses—and is not this gain as well kept among ourselves as sent off to a foreign country?

COLBERT.

The Congress of the United States, meet on Monday next.

AGGRAVATION OF INSULT.

The notorious Copenhagen Jackson has published a Circular Letter, (which will appear in our next) in which he reiterates the lie-direct to our Government, and even asserts that they have officially acknowledged it! He notifies his intention of remaining in this country until further orders;—no doubt anticipating a full approval of his insolent and infamous conduct, and perhaps be armed anew with the means of attempting a second edition of his "Copenhagen" villainy.

The article which we this day extract from the Charleston City Gazette, we hope will receive the most pointed attention from the members of our Legislature, more especially as a most important question on the same subject is now pending before them. It surely cannot be correct policy in government to permit of the existence of an institution among us, that in its operation drains the country of vast sums of money, and exposes to risk the health, and even the lives of our citizens, for the preservation of property which might otherwise be consumed at the expence of the subjects of a government decidedly hostile to our interests and happiness. While our wealth enriches British subjects, we indirectly enrich their government, and afford them means for the prosecution of further injuries; for, it is our firm belief, that while that nation (under its present form of government) is permitted to hold her head above the water which insulates her island, she will treat us, as we have every reason to believe her, as a most confirmed, insidious, and bitter enemy.

FOR THE MARYLAND REPUBLICAN.

"Fourth of July Reading!"

THE same forcible reasons which led to the establishment of the ordinance in most of the Christian Churches of reading the letter of the Holy Scriptures upon the Sabbath, operated also in a degree with those who are judiciously establishing the practice in these United States, of reading to assemblies of the people the Declaration of Independence upon the anniversary of its date.—It serves to remind its admirers of its genuine original text, and the true purpose of its publication; it never fails to recall the most interesting sensations, because it is a record of the cause and period of our political birth and civil regeneration; it tenets it contains and the principles it asserts, should be taught to the children of those who achieved it as long as their posterity dwell upon the land that it has blessed. For these reasons it has become a practice with some of our political journalists to present their subscribers with it annually as suitable reading for the fourth of July. It is not, perhaps, the least distressing instance of party extremes, to observe that it has established a distinction in this respect—that this wholesome practice, which should be general, and seems a suitable thing for all who profess to admire the instrument

itself, should become partial and circumscribed by the plainest limits! I have seen no Republican paper of that date which did not contain that excellent instrument; but of all the Federal papers which I have seen, only one solitary instance of its insertion was to be found! It would be uncharitable to suppose the neglect of the latter arose universally from the same cause. But whilst we lament the humiliating fact, too plainly established, that there are numbers of high-toned politicians absolutely hostile to the Declaration of Independence itself—who have not scrupled to pronounce it a "wicked thing"—who "believed it to be wrong at first, and think so still"—and who publicly pronounced that "the reading of it is a foolish practice" because, it keeps alive the feelings which prompted it originally. Who, in short, descend to ridicule with all the levity of jocosities criticism, the instrument itself, that they may make it contemptible if possible to the descendants of those worthies who conceived and dared to "pledge their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor," to establish and support it!—Whilst we observe and know these things to be openly said and done by the leaders of a party, we cannot but be alarmed to find their examples, if not openly admired, at least tacitly copied by a whole party of humble followers! If they can prevent its universal promulgation, and plant the seeds of contempt for the instrument which asserted our freedom, they rob the glorious circumstance itself of half the veneration due to it; they break the ties that should have bound us to the act, with the strongest endeavours, and indulge the propensity to neglect and forget the obligations of patriotism. There is, it is most certain, a wide difference between the benefit of religious and of political institutions, and in proportion to the importance of that distinction is the crime of disrespect to the letter of Revelation itself, and contempt for the instrument by which we hold our political freedom. Pity it is that either should be countenanced by Americans; for veneration and respect for each, is the first stage of our religious and political safety.

But mankind seldom stop at negative guilt; to the fault of neglecting the proper subject for their columns on the 4th of July, the federal editors have added the crime of introducing into their various papers under the head of "Fourth of July reading" tales and falsehoods contrived for the most iniquitous purposes, and prologues of the most injurious consequences.—Those who have seen the federal papers of last Summer will readily remember the pathetic history of Captain Fager which was published first in the New-York Evening Post, and thence copied into every paper in the train of opposition under the above title. Prefaced too with a violent inflammatory party philippic against the administration and officers of Government.

Even allowing the whole statement in Capt. Folders account of himself, to have been true, it surely is not a suitable subject for the occasion to which they would wish to apply it. Shall the American people be prevented from attending to the Declaration of Independence, our great National Magna Charta, and be presented in its stead with an account of the adventures of an individual, whose fortune had thrown him into "the power of a set of foreign knaves and tyrants? It is the seduction of deceitful policy, my countrymen, more dangerous than barefaced opposition! Shall we have an act of a tragedy read to us, instead of the scriptures? if the crime in the present case is not quite of as deep a dye, it is much of the same complexion.

But this very pathetic history is now proved to be a most wicked and unprincipled fabrication. "This miserable victim," Captain Folger, turns out to be one of those corrupt and corrupting instruments of British avarice abroad, and misrepresentations at home, with which our country is so supremely cursed. Long since he was summoned to account for inconsistencies in this state—for sums of money expended—publicly charged with illegal pursuits—and trading under British licenses to French ports from British ports, and criminated with direct willful falsehoods, propagated for his own speculation, and to the injury of commerce, as well as sundry others very strange "mere formalities" which he had acted a conspicuous part in. But his federal friends attempted to prop up his reputation with unusual zeal, because his account went to impeach the integrity of an important minister of government, and throw distrust and suspicion upon the executive of our country.—The deception, however, has now passed by. The miscreant stands exposed to the world with all his turpitude upon him, by documents beyond the reach of disproof, and it only remains to be seen whether these federal papers which so industriously gave it circulation, and thereby became agents of the fraud, will have honesty enough to confess they were deceived, and publish the confutation. "Surely 'tis what common decency demands, waving the duty paramount as Christians." The American public, have been mocked with a tale as base and unprincipled as it was false and flagitious; a tale fabricated to screen the most accomplished scoundrel, and made use of to vilify the fairest reputation; contrived and disseminated far and wide for the evident purpose of destroying the affection and confidence of the People in their government, and stigmatizing the name and faith of its agents abroad! and the more to sanctify the unprincipled deed, and attach the feelings of Americans to the cheat, they dared to entitle it "Fourth of July Reading!"